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THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,494

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 1996

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ALTERNATIVE HEALTH

Power of touch

Medicine or magic? Day one of a two-part investigation

PAGES 11 and 17

12 PAGES OF TOP SPORT

Chelsea revival

Gullit inspires the Blues to a five-goal feast at Stamford Bridge

PAGE 21

Inquiry call as franchise is halted

Rail sell-off undermined by fraud claim

By JONATHAN PYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans for a high-profile launch of rail privatisation were left in disarray yesterday as ministers faced demands for a criminal investigation into allegations that a new private operator was involved in ticket fraud.

The sale of the London, Tilbury and Southend service, known to commuters as "The Misery Line", was stopped by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, just ten hours before it was due to go ahead.

At 2am yesterday, the first private companies took control of scheduled passenger services since the railways were nationalised in 1948.

South West Trains from Waterloo to Hampshire and Dorset, and Great Western to South West London and Surrey, will run 1,000 trains a day.

LTS was due to take over its service at the same time but a routine audit by British Rail accountants on Thursday uncovered "a serious breach" of ticket revenue allocation rules, involving up to £30,000 a month. The revenues due to London Transport, which shares several stations with LTS Rail, are believed to have been re-routed to the train operator's bank although there has been no question of personal financial gain, Colin Andrews, the commercial director of the LTS management team, resigned on Friday.

Department of Transport officials were told immediately and Chris Kinchin-Smith, the managing director of LTS Rail, informed his five-man board on Friday that Mr Andrews had resigned.

Ministers spent Friday pondering whether the sale of the franchise should be stopped. On Saturday, a story appeared in a national newspaper and the BBC's South East television programme reported Mr Andrews's resignation. Sir George decided to ditch the sale at around 5pm on Saturday.

Brian Wilson, the shadow transport spokesman, said yesterday he had written to the Director of Public Prosecutors urging an immediate inquiry because the breach involved public money. "This is not an internal matter for the Government," he said.

Labour will seek to exploit the issue again on Wednesday when they have a Commons debate on rail privatisation.

Sir George played down the postponement of the franchise. "This is a momentous day for the railways and I hope that in years to come people will look back on today as a turning point - the point at which the renaissance of the railways began," he said.

"We would have liked to have got three out of three away today but we have got two out of three... I hope we can sort out the matter of LTS Rail quite soon. It is a good bid, they have promised new rolling stock and an improved service."

However, he could not disguise the damage inflicted on the Government by the affair. Ministers had hoped that it had weathered the worst of the political storm over its highly unpopular rail privatisation proposals.

Experts said the incident raised new concerns about the structure of the new rail railways, in which dozens of private operators must cooperate over the allocation of ticket revenue. Twelve franchises, almost half those up for sale, have to share revenue with London Transport.

It was claimed that the first privatised train was in fact a bus when engineering works forced South West Trains' 1.12am Sunday service from Waterloo to Southampton Central to finish at Eastleigh, Hampshire. Passengers had to disembark and board a bus for the last five miles.

"It is a fiasco," said Mr Wilson, who was at Eastleigh station at 3am yesterday morning to meet the bus. "The first train has turned out to be a bus and there's going to be an awful lot of that under privatisation."



A young Afghan girl waiting for Red Cross flour, ghee and medicines to be distributed in Kabul yesterday. Report and more photographs, page 9

Police say gangs are ousting godfathers

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has more than 300 criminal gangs with between 5,000 and 10,000 members, who pose a greater threat than the Triads, the Mafia and the Yards, according to a police report on organised crime.

The report, drawn up by senior detectives from 11 forces, will show that a new breed of young gangster is ousting the traditional underworld families. The gangs are supported by 300 top criminals who finance their operations.

They operate across towns and cities, making their money from an ever-expanding trade in drugs, theft of performance cars, serious fraud and armed robbery.

Although violence is used in "turf wars", there is so much criminal business available that the gangs do not need to compete, it says.

The report, to be circulated to Chief Constables this month, will show that police are ill-prepared to deal with the growing threat because of poor co-operation between forces, parochial attitudes and inadequate intelligence.

Chief Constables are already making plans for the creation of a new national CID unit, and MIS is being brought in. At a private briefing to discuss the plans last month, Colin Phillips, the assistant Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, said: "The biggest threat is now from local criminals who organise themselves for a common purpose. There is no godfather who runs everything."

New kingpins, page 5

Woman firefighter dies in blaze

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A YOUNG woman became the first female firefighter to die on active duty yesterday when the roof of a blazing supermarket collapsed after she went inside to check for trapped people.

Fleur Lombard, 21, was hit by falling debris after entering the building with another officer. He went home after treatment for facial burns, cuts and bruises.

The two were found and pulled clear by six colleagues after becoming trapped minutes after fighting their way into Leo's supermarket in Staple Hill, near Bristol. Paramedics tried to revive Miss Lombard but she died minutes after reaching hospital.

Miss Lombard had been a firefighter for about two years. She was one of the first women to join the 700-strong Avon Fire Brigade full-time, having served in Derby as a part-time retained firefighter. Only a handful of women have taken the opportunity to become firefighters since Britain allowed them to serve on active duty in 1982.

Her father, Roger Lombard, a businessman, of Furness Vale, New Mills, Derbyshire, said: "We were extremely proud of her. She died doing what she wanted to do."

"She achieved one extremely high distinction of being the first female fire officer to be awarded the Silver Axe." The honour goes to the best recruit on each course.

Rob Seaman, 27, the officer in the building with Miss Lombard was recovering at home last night with his wife, Sarah, and their six-month-old daughter.

John Terry, Avon deputy chief fire officer, said: "Our job was to get in straight away and that was what she did. She died doing her job. Everyone in the brigade is absolutely devastated."

The alarm was raised about midday by Sylvia Anstey, 45, who lives near by. She said: "I saw a blanket of thick black smoke gushing through the windows. A couple of people were climbing out of ground-floor office windows."

Staff cleared the building within minutes of flames being seen. It took four hours to bring the blaze, attended by 60 firefighters with eight fire appliances and a turntable ladder, under control. The building was gutted.

Last night the fire's cause was still being investigated. The brigade confirmed that investigators were looking at the possibility that a flashover, or rolling wall of flame, caused by spirits from the drinks section, had exploded and brought the roof down.

The tragedy came three days after two part-time firefighters - Stephen Griffin, 42, and Kevin Lane, 32 - died in Blairstown, Gwent. They had gone back into a house to rescue a child already saved.



Lombard: searched for trapped people

Ashdown on attacks alert

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN and his family are bracing themselves for further trouble after being warned by police that they are facing a vendetta by a few of his constituents in Yeovil.

The police are worried about malicious allegations linking the Liberal Democrat leader to a massage parlour. Mr Ashdown is known to be bewildered by recent attacks on him, including the petrol bombing of his car last week.

The accusations concerning a massage parlour six doors away from the Liberal Democrat headquarters in Yeovil could be made under the legal protection of court proceedings on Thursday before magistrates in the town. Mr Ashdown is said to deny all allegations emphatically and to be prepared to counter the false claims. Mr Ashdown and his wife, Jane, spent the weekend at their home in Norton, sub-Hamdon. The police have taken the threats so seriously that surveillance equipment was installed in the garden. This was later removed.

Mr Ashdown, a former officer in the Special Boat Squadron, has tried to shrug off previous attacks. In the past couple of months, a window of his car has been smashed with a stone, he has had threatening letters and said he was held at knife-point during a late-night investigation of alleged race attacks on local restaurants. The attacks on his car are thought to have been carried out by local criminals angry at his campaign launched last year to crack down on racially-motivated attacks in his constituency.

Two years ago, City Girl, a massage parlour, was closed down by the Liberal Democrat local council over planning irregularities. Peter Stoodley, the former owner of the parlour, was later jailed for six months for living off immoral earnings. He is now trying to sell a story to a national newspaper based on unfounded allegations linking Mr Ashdown to a former woman employee of City Girl.

Yesterday a leading member of Mr Ashdown's Partnership Against Racial Harassment said the false rumours were being spread by people angry about the MP's stand on racism.

Violence in Yeovil, page 3

Risk of 'IRA split over peace process'

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THERE IS a danger of an IRA split over the slow pace of the Northern Ireland peace process, George Mitchell, who chaired the advisory body on decommissioning terrorist arms, said yesterday.

Amid fears in the Province that IRA terrorists were responsible for a gun attack on the home of an RUC officer last week, Mr Mitchell said there was the potential for "direct and violent action" by the IRA. Speaking on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, the former US senator, who held lengthy discussions with the Sinn Fein leadership last month during the preparation of his report, said: "I think there is a danger of a fracture within that organisation. It seems clear that not all on the republican side favour the ceasefire and the potential for some elements to take direct and violent action, I think, does remain."

Mr Mitchell said he hoped that the IRA would not split because it would be a "tragedy of huge proportions" if violence resumed. He added that the best way of underpinning the peace process would be to bring Sinn Fein and the loyalist parties further into the political process.

"I do believe that the political parties that are closely associated with the paramilitary organisations on both sides... are committed to the process. That's why I believe it's important to draw them further into the democratic process."

Burglars get by with help from a little friend

By PETER FOSTER

RUSSELL BROWN, 4, thought they were two unexpected friends to keep him company after he woke to go to the lavatory in the middle of the night.

He chatted politely to the burglars, helpfully pointing out his mum and dad's most valued possessions. He promised to be a good boy and make no noise while his parents slept upstairs.

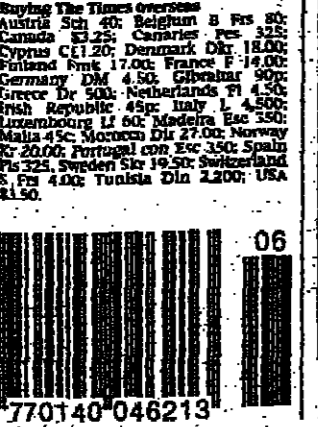
He showed them the video recorder and the hi-fi. He told them where his mother kept her purse hidden in the kitchen, with more than £200 set aside for the week's groceries. He obliged with another £100 from the mortgage fund in a pot at the back of a cupboard in the living room. He remembered that the garden shed at the bottom of the garden at his home in Alderman's Green, Coventry, was never locked. The burglars helped themselves to Russell's father's Christmas present, a power drill.

Russell held open the back door while his new friends loaded their haul into a car. He went back to bed, while his parents Russell and Wendy and his sister Reanne, 2, slept on. Mr Brown, 31, said: "Wendy was woken up at about 3am by the toilet light, but I told her to go back to sleep because I was sure it would just be Russell going to the loo."

At 9am Reanne woke them to say they had better get up because Russell had made a mess in the living room. They took the children to Mrs Brown's sister, who telephoned later to say that Russell had confessed to his part in the burglary last week. "We thought he was dreaming it," Mr Brown said, "but the police said that he was telling the truth. His description of events was too detailed to be made up."

The Browns said they had not punished their son because he thought he had done the right thing. "At the end of the day you've just got to laugh about it. Anything could have happened to him, so we're glad he's OK."

Three men have been arrested and charged in connection with the burglary.



Russell Brown, chatting politely to night visitors

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY
ALTERNATIVE HEALTH
 Part two: shopping for therapies
PLUS: Check your scores in our cash-prize interactive Team Football game

WEDNESDAY
ESSENTIAL FASHION
 Cool for kids
PLUS: Interface, our weekly computer supplement

THURSDAY
FILMS OF THE WEEK
 Clockers, Spike Lee's best film yet?
PLUS: Health, the Books pages, and John Bryant on sport

FRIDAY
POP
 The Bluetones' first album and other records of the week
PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview, and the Education page

SATURDAY
EASY MONEY
 Free 20-page guide to Peps
PLUS: The Magazine, Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vison, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: COLLECT A VOUCHER AND EAT OUT FOR £5

Heseltine attacked for bill advice

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HESELTINE came under heavy criticism from his own party and from business last night for undermining government efforts to force companies to pay bills promptly.

Two days after the Government published legislation stopping companies and Whitehall departments from delaying payments, the Deputy Prime Minister advised businesses to delay paying bills if they were in financial difficulty.

Mr Heseltine yesterday repeated publicly the comments he had made in private last week, when he admitted that he had deliberately delayed paying bills when his company was in difficulty.

"Everyone who has started a small business knows the strains. Many people face moments when they find it difficult to pay their bills. I certainly went through that experience and certainly in those circumstances the creditors waited for their money."

His comments, on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, were attacked as "absolutely appalling" by Sir Michael Latham, a former Tory MP who chaired a government-appointed commission into late payment.

The proposals of the Latham Commission, for an end to delaying tactics used in the construction industry, were included in a Bill published last Friday by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. Mr Gummer bowed to pressure from Tory MPs to ensure that government departments were forced to comply rather than be allowed immunity from prosecution.

Sir Michael said: "These comments set an absolutely appalling example when the Government is trying to get payments speeded up. The result of businesses paying late is that someone else does not get the money and may go out of business."

"If a big company doesn't pay a smaller company, then the delayed payment is simply passed on, until the self-employed person at the end doesn't get paid at all. If companies or government can't afford to pay their bills, then they shouldn't order the work, and that's the message that should be put out."

Mr Heseltine amassed a fortune at the multinational Haymarket publishing empire.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, has demanded an apology from Mr Heseltine, and Robin Cook, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary, said yesterday: "I know Mr Heseltine has been telling private audiences for a good idea. The fact is that late payment is the curse of the small business."

When publishing the construction Bill on Friday, Mr Gummer underlined his determination to outlaw "notorious" delaying tactics in the construction industry. Explaining his decision to extend the rules to Whitehall, Mr Gummer said: "Government has set itself the target of becoming a best-practice client. It is

only right that we should take the lead in applying these reforms to the way we do business with the construction industry."

The Confederation of British Industry is surveying members to find out whether slow bill-payment is a particular problem and how long it takes for firms to be paid. It recently issued a code of conduct encouraging members to pay their bills promptly and has a list of members who have signed up to the code. "It is of concern when people do not pay on time. It is particularly difficult for small businesses. If they are not paid on time then they cannot pay their own bills," a CBI spokeswoman said. "Some people blame late payment for their firms going under but it can never be pinpointed as the only cause."

Waldegrave under fire in Scott furore

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND NIGEL WILLIAMSON

JOHN MAJOR faced demands from Labour yesterday to dismiss William Waldegrave from the Government if the Scott report says that he signed untrue letters over the arms-to-Iraq affair.

Copies of the report will be delivered to Mr Major on Thursday. As ministers prepare to mount a damage-limitation exercise, Labour called for a commitment from the Prime Minister to sack any colleague criticised in the report.

Mr Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, are likely to be at the centre of criticism in the 2,000-page report.

Although no copies of the final report have been issued, friends of Mr Waldegrave, the former Foreign Office minister, said yesterday he did not expect it to be as critical of his actions as draft versions had been.

However, ministers recognise that there will be widespread criticisms of government conduct, in particular the use of Public Interest Immunity certificates which prevented witnesses from giving certain evidence in trials.

In the drafts, Lord Justice Scott criticised Mr Waldegrave and other former col-



All change: carriages being repainted in the livery of the new South West service

Shipbuilder aids peace process

The Irish Navy is hoping to contribute to the Northern Ireland peace process by having its latest vessel built at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Protestant East Belfast. Under a plan being drawn up by senior naval officers in the Republic, the £25 million vessel would be built in Belfast and then fitted out across the border in Cork.

The navy, which has seven ships, needs the new vessel to patrol the Republic's fishing waters in the Irish Box. Since the beginning of this year 40 Spanish fishing vessels have been allowed into the Box, which has increased the navy's work by more than 30 per cent. The European Union is expected to provide the bulk of funding for the new vessel.

Millions 'wasted' on drugs bill

The Health Department is wasting hundreds of millions of pounds of taxpayers' money every year on prescription drugs, an investigation by *Health Watch* magazine has shown. Health officials refuse to admit how much is spent, but an Audit Commission report has suggested that total annual savings of up to £425 million could be brought about by better prescribing.

The Consumers' Association said that, without publication of the "D list", which details the annual drug bill, it was impossible to tell whether public money was being spent wisely. Officials say that disclosure of the list could jeopardise patient confidentiality and commercial interests.

Alternative medicine, page 11

Human kindness killing hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are being endangered by milk, bread and dog food left for them in gardens by animal lovers, according to researchers who say the animals are losing their teeth. Hedgehogs are also picking up parasitic worms and wounds from contact with domestic animals. In a survey of 12 hedgehogs electronically tagged on release after a winter stay at an animal hospital in Somerset, only four were still alive after nine weeks back in the wild.

Six share jackpot

Six tickets shared Saturday's lottery jackpot, each winning £1,625,476. The 38 tickets that matched five numbers plus the bonus won £78,970 each, and the 2,010 who matched five numbers got £933.

Winning numbers, page 20.

Sorry, sir, but the future is running a little late

By JOE JOSEPH

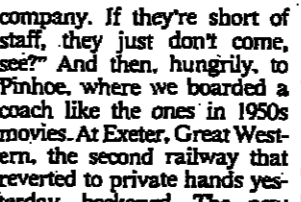
IT was to be an historic day: the first privately-run railway for nearly half a century.

"So, this must be a pretty exciting day for you," I whispered to a guard steering passengers towards the 10.32 to Exeter. He regarded me strangely. "Oh yeah!" he hissed. "Thrilling!"

Maybe everyone at Waterloo looked so drawn because they are having as tough a time working out what is going on as the passengers. Inquiring on different occasions since Friday, I was told there was no 10.32 to Exeter, or that there was, but you had to go by bus from Basingstoke to Reading, or change trains at Woking, or change at Basingstoke and get a bus at Pinhoe. Even a double-check yesterday proved chaotic.

The area South West Trains serves - Surrey, Hampshire and Dorset - is known as the "gin and Jag belt". Now we know why: decoding the timetable sends travellers rushing for a drink and their cars. At last we were off. Shortly after Basingstoke at 11.52am the train supervisor was on the tannoy: "Due to engineering works this train will terminate at Pinhoe, where a special bus service will take passengers to Exeter. There will be no buffet facilities. This is due to circumstances beyond my control."

The supervisor said: "The buffet staff aren't part of the company. If they're short of staff, they just don't come, see?" And then, hungrily, to Pinhoe, where we boarded a coach like the ones in 1950s movies. At Exeter, Great Western, the second railway that reverted to private hands yesterday, beckoned. The new owners plan to pay homage to Brunel - who built the line in 1833 - by adopting the original livery. Passengers would settle for punctuality. The 15.10 to Manchester didn't leave till 15.28. Our 15.27 to Paddington was a modest 11 minutes late. A guard responded to a passenger's query by saying: "Perhaps the new management intends to run it the way it's always been run." And back to London by InterCity, stopping just twice before catching sight of Paddington, which helps restore faith in rail travel. Just remember to bring your own sandwiches.



Souvenir ticket yesterday

Fears of IRA split over peace process

Continued from page 1

process by getting these [all party] negotiations going as soon as possible.

Mr Mitchell praised John Major's commitment to the peace process, but his comments highlighted his irritation with Britain for rejecting his report's finding that all party talks should begin before terrorists had disarmed.

Mr Mitchell's fears about a split in the IRA were quickly rejected by Martin McGuinness, the leading Sinn Fein member. He said: "Since the beginning of the ceasefire, the IRA have proved themselves to be a very disciplined and cohesive organisation... I don't believe that there is any danger of a split."

Even so, one of Sinn Fein's most senior members recently described the ceasefire as a "tactic" which would be ended if real negotiations did not begin. There are four possible scenarios under which IRA violence could resume:

- Britain fails to broker the serious all party negotiations envisaged by the republican leadership.
- In the face of growing internal opposition to the ceasefire, violence is seen as the only way of maintaining IRA unity.
- The IRA and Sinn Fein engineer a managed split. Under this scenario the IRA would resume its violence, while Sinn Fein would try to maintain its role in the peace process by distancing itself from terrorism.
- A breakaway faction, possibly from hardline areas such as South Armagh or East Tyrone, could resume violence to challenge the leadership.

David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, said he was not surprised by Mr Mitchell's comments. Speaking on the Frost programme, the MP for Upper Bann said: "Republican organisations... are quintessential fascist organisations."

Blair backtracks on Labour's BT deal

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has watered down plans to allow British Telecom to invest billions of pounds in the information superhighway within two years of a Labour government being formed.

The Labour leader has agreed that smaller cable companies should be protected from early competition from the telecommunications giant.

Mr Blair angered the cable industry when he announced at the Labour conference that the party had agreed a deal with BT giving the company access to the cable market in 1998 if Labour was in power. Some companies already installing cables said they could be put out of business.

Now Mr Blair has agreed that a Labour government would give companies seven years to establish themselves before BT could compete directly against them, meaning that BT will be able to begin only a small number of cable networks in 1998. Labour leaders have also conceded that allowing BT into the market would require two complex and time-consuming pieces of legislation.

Last year's agreement meant that BT would connect schools and hospitals to a national computer network in return for access to the home cable market.

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Attack on Ashdown exposes violent Yeovil street life

By ADRIAN LEE

THE hate campaign against Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, which culminated in the petrol-bombing of his car last week, has drawn attention to the darker side of the apparently tranquil market town of Yeovil.

A small gang of petty criminals is blamed for the increasing violence in the town centre, with rising vandalism, arson and racist attacks. Any-one daring to stand up to them becomes a target.

The Somerset town is to install closed-circuit television cameras later this month, to try to tackle the problem. Many people say they are afraid to venture into the town centre after dark because it becomes the domain of drunken yobs looking for trouble.

Tony Fife, a Liberal Democrat councillor and former mayor of Yeovil, said: "The trouble is orchestrated by a gang of petty criminals. Unfortunately, they are giving the town a bad name nationally."

Mr Fife is also a shopkeeper who has suffered at the hands of thugs. "While I was mayor, I had my shop windows put through 12 times, simply because I represented authority. At night, part of the town centre is intimidating — you sense an atmosphere of violence."

"But we have to get this into perspective. I am very proud of Yeovil, and its problems are no worse than any other town of a similar size."

Yeovil, with a population of 45,000, is surrounded by at-

tractive villages such as Norton-sub-Hamdon where Mr Ashdown has his home, but the town centre is an incognito mix of old buildings and ugly modern precincts.

The trouble is focused on a street known as "Takeaway Alley", a pedestrianised route leading from Yeovil's three nightclubs to a cluster of kebab restaurants and take-aways at the bottom end of town. On the same street, a massage parlour, which was the front for a brothel, was closed by the Liberal Democrat council. The decision angered local criminals.

Mr Ashdown's stand

against racism — he founded the Partnership against Racial Harassment after attacks took place at several of the restaurants in Takeaway Alley — is also thought to have made him a target. A local newspaper which supported his campaign was firebombed.

Invariably, the violence is drink-related and the nightly problems involve the young. Martin Webb, manager of a hotel in the town centre, said he was now trying to encourage an older clientele. "Any-one under 22 or 23 we don't really want. I have put a couple of lads on the doors, to try to encourage older people

to come in, and changed the style of music. The clubs kick out between 2am and 4am, and all you hear is windows going. It is a hard job for the police and, without doubt, it is getting worse."

Yesterday morning, at 2.15, two youths stood urinating in a shop doorway, seemingly oblivious to passers-by. Two police officers stood watch at the other end of the precinct, where a drunken youth was goading them by pushing a beefburger towards their faces. Threatened with arrest, he walked off, then lashed out with his foot at a taxi. The driver did not want action taken but some of his colleagues now carry small coshes to protect themselves.

Earlier a group of skin-heads had jostled a homeless beggar who had the temerity to ask for a few pence. One youth, swigging from a bottle of strong cider, tore away the newspapers the man was using for warmth and shouted at him: "Why don't you get a job?"

Down the road, a girl screamed abuse at another young woman: "Tell your mate she's going to get her head ripped off."

The two officers were called to a fight outside a nightclub, but by the time they arrived it was over. They followed a gang of young men from the club through town. "I'll bet my pension that if we hadn't followed them, a window would have gone through," said one.



Paddy and his wife Jane yesterday



Elizabeth at 13: "a haunting loneliness, a reluctant but obsessive secrecy"

Elizabeth I portrait 'reveals a childhood of abuse'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A PSYCHIATRIST who has studied the earliest known portrait of Elizabeth I believes it shows that she was abused as a child. Dr Elinor Kapp, a consultant in child and adolescent mental health with a special interest in the history of art, says the expression of "frozen watchfulness" is reminiscent of the victims of deprived or abused childhoods.

The portrait, which hangs in the present Queen's collection at Windsor Castle, shows Elizabeth at 13 in the last year of the reign of her father, Henry VIII. Dr Kapp writes in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*: "Her eyes are candid but the set of her head on the neck and the folded lips show a wariness that gradually, as one studies the picture, becomes the most striking thing about it. There is a haunting loneliness about its reluctant but obsessive secrecy... a frozen watchfulness that recalls to me countless victims of deprived or abused childhoods."

Dr Kapp points out that when Elizabeth was three her mother, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded; she was regarded as illegitimate, had three stepmothers and was the subject of constant scheming. If her childhood "were translated into modern terms, social workers would have been round at Henry's door constantly".

Police keep a cooler head in the fight against crime

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE officers in Greater Manchester are to become the first in England and Wales to switch from the traditional helmet to a modern cap.

A national police committee is looking at the future of the traditional uniform. The decision by Greater Manchester, which is one of the largest forces in the country, is likely to influence other forces.

Police are divided over the value of the traditional helmet, but its disappearance would be mourned as the loss of another distinctly British symbol, following the demise of red telephone boxes.

Scottish forces abandoned the helmet in the 1950s. English and Welsh forces had fiercely debated its end and until now decided to keep it.

Next month the operational

officers in the 7,200-strong Manchester force will put aside their helmets and switch to a new-style of working uniform for the year 2,000. The traditional serge tunic will be swapped for a flame-proof continental blouson, and every officer will wear light-weight bullet-proof vests.

The helmet will be kept for ceremonial purposes which are likely to be rare. The helmet, taken originally from a design for the Prussian army, was first issued to London police in 1863. It is still made from dyed rabbits' fur, cork and cotton.

Some officers, including Sir Peter Imbert, the former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and Fred Broughton, the chairman of the Police Federation, have defended the

traditional helmet. They argue that the public links it to a British style of community policing.

Others officers argue the helmet is unwieldy to wear during a chase and impossible to keep on while getting in and out of a patrol car. It is hot in the summer and a target for people wanting to attack police. One Manchester officer said yesterday: "The officers welcome the change. They want a working uniform. The helmet is always being left in the back of cars and it is the first thing to fall off in a chase. It is no protection unless you put the chinstrap down and most officers never wear it with the strap down. Working police on the streets just want to something that is easy to wear."

Day out in Inverness attracts the stars

THOUSANDS lined the streets of Inverness as celebrities gathered for the world premiere of the film *Loch Ness*. Its stars, Ted Danson, Joely Richardson and 11-year-old Kirsty Graham, were joined by Koo Stark, Bob Geldof and Annela Rice on a march through the town on Saturday, led by a pipe band.

Two chartered jets carried more than 200 guests from London. Sniggers ran through the audience as the Provost, William Fraser, welcomed "Ted Dancing" to Inverness. Danson, who says he is descended from the MacMaster clan of Argyll, smiled as the Provost repeated his mistake later.

The 83-year-old La Scala cinema is one of the smallest to stage a world premiere. Executives from Polygram, which funded the film, are said to have been attracted by its elaborate decor.

Jersey sacks three honorary officers

By BILL FROST

THREE long-serving members of Jersey's honorary police force have been sacked for alleged racial discrimination against a Brazilian clergyman who ministers to the island's Portuguese community.

The sackings came after they jointly tendered their resignations when the Rev Vivaldo Filho was made a constable's officer. Stephanie Nicolle, Jersey's acting Attorney-General, said the attitude displayed by the three showed that they were "unfit to carry out their duties".

Miss Nicolle told Gerry Sutherland, Alan Allix and Lilian Minchinton that they would not be allowed to leave the honorary police of their own volition but were being forced out for discriminating against a fellow officer "on the grounds of national or racial origin". Mr Sutherland's wife Annette denied that her husband and his two colleagues were racist. "This was simply a clash of person-

alities. Gerry is not a racist, he has helped lots of black and coloured people in his 17 years with the police. We are terribly upset at what has happened."

Senhor Filho, who has lived in Jersey for ten years and is a British citizen, has questioned the claim that a "clash of personalities" was at the heart of an increasingly acrimonious affair. He said he had never worked with the three and met them only once, when he was elected last December.

Yesterday Senhor Filho refused to comment on the affair, but one of his supporters warmly welcomed the sackings. Leonard Springate said: "Thank God they have been given their marching orders. This has been a thoroughly disgusting business. The Rev Vivaldo is a wonderful man who gives his all to the community. He is a real Christian, which is more than can be said for some on this island who have now got their just deserts."

Chill brings record payout

A FRESH blast of Arctic weather was heading for Britain yesterday, just as it was announced that cold weather payments by the Department of Social Security have already doubled the previous record.

So far this winter, £47 million has been paid to vulnerable groups. The previous highest pay-out was £23 million in the winter of 1991-92.

More than 5.6 million individual payments have been made, with people in some areas receiving the £8.50 weekly award more than once. Eligible households in the Aviemore and Braemar

areas of Scotland have received a total of £42.50 for five separate cold snaps. The payments are triggered when the average temperature is forecast or recorded at zero celsius or below for seven consecutive days, and is available from November 1 until March 31 to people on income support including pensioners, the disabled, and families with children under five.

Roger Evans, a junior Social Security Minister, said: "The payout shows the scheme is working well. The payments are reaching those people who need the help most. Payments are now

made automatically. There is no longer any requirement to put in a separate claim. Also, when payments are made as a result of a forecast and the weather is not as cold as the forecast predicts, we do not recoup the money."

Snow was forecast to move in from the west this morning, reaching a depth of several inches, and hitting London and the South East by this evening. The Meteorological Office said temperatures in the next couple of days would rarely rise above freezing.

America's freeze, page 10
Forecast, page 20

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Dismayed Tories to meet over MP's fate

BY ALICE THOMSON

THE political fate of David Ashby, the Tory MP who lost a libel action in December over a report that branded him a homosexual, liar and hypocrite, will be decided at a special meeting of his local Tory party next month.

He held long discussions yesterday with senior local party members who did not hide their dismay at his behaviour. The constituency party of North-West Leicestershire, which Mr Ashby won with a majority of 979, is concerned about his £500,000 legal bill and by the steeze allegations. They were embarrassed by members of the Ashby family giving vitriolic testimony against each other.

Mr Ashby, 55, met the chairman, vice-chairman and four members of the association at his home in Ravenstone for more than three hours. They made clear that they did not want a by-election which they would almost certainly lose but would like fresh blood to fight Labour at the next general election.

Golfing tycoon stripped of title bans club

BY IAN MURRAY

A GOLF club is being evicted from a course owned by a tycoon who was stripped of the world's leading pro-am golf title last week for alleged cheating.

Members of the Welcombe Golf Club have been told that they will not be able to renew their subscriptions, which expire at the end of this month. The course is in a 157-acre park around the Welcombe Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon, bought for an estimated £17 million six years ago by Masashi Yamada, a Japanese property magnate.

Tom Wood, the club chairman, said: "We are being tipped out on to the street with nowhere to go and have been given no reason for it whatsoever. Our members are shattered and I have seen one senior member in tears."

"We have a great community spirit and want to stay together but the clubs round here are full with long waiting lists and none could take in all our 407 members." The club

has used the course since 1982, paying more than £250,000 a year for facilities including a clubhouse.

There was no written contract but Mr Wood, 70, said: "We had a gentleman's agreement to use the course and nobody ever complained about anything we did. It is a fine course and we are proud of it."

The course has been highly regarded since it was upgraded to 18 holes in 1978 and last year the club hosted the Midland PGA championship.

Last week Mr Wood was called in by John Moore, the hotel's general manager, and told that members would not be allowed to use the course after February 29. They pay annual fees of £505 of which £475 is passed on to the hotel.

A spokesman at the hotel said last night that the course was being closed for refurbishment. It was not known how long this would take or whether the club members would be allowed back afterwards, he said. Hotel guests would continue to be allowed to play the course.



Tom Wood, right, on the course yesterday with the club secretary, Gary Cooper

Mr Yamada, 72, is a keen golfer who last year partnered Bruce Vaughan, a little known American professional, in the Pebble Beach Pro-Am championship, which was founded by Bing Crosby in 1964. The

pair won the title ahead of some of the best-known names in golf thanks largely to a succession of fine rounds by Mr Yamada, who was playing off a handicap of 15.

The organisers later discovered that Mr Yamada's true handicap was ten strokes better than the one he had used to

help him to the title. His incorrect handicap had been issued by a club he owns in Japan. The organising committee, chaired by Clint Eastwood, decided on the evidence to strip the title from Mr Yamada.

Woodsman wins, page 22

MPs unite to back Bill outlawing ageism in job adverts

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government will come under pressure this week to outlaw age discrimination in job advertisements after a study by Age Concern found that nearly 20 per cent bar people over 40.

More than 200 MPs of all parties are supporting a backbench Bill this Friday to help to fight ageism, which hinders millions of older people seeking work or a change of job. According to Age Concern, only 52 per cent of men aged 60 to 64 are economically active compared with nearly 90 per cent in 1951.

In one Sunday newspaper last week over 25 per cent of job adverts included phrases such as "You are probably under 40" or "Those over 50 need not apply". Most recruitment agencies are also backing the Bill. They conducted their own survey of 250 personnel directors, which showed 86 per cent regarded the under-35s as their ideal recruits for jobs ranging from cleaners to senior managers.

The Bill, introduced by David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall, would outlaw blatant age bars in job advertisements. Mr Winnick says that similar legislation has already successfully combated sexism, racism and discrimination against the disabled.

The Labour front bench has also pledged to introduce anti-age discrimination laws if it comes to power. Age discrimination is illegal in America, Australia and parts of Europe but the Government says it prefers a voluntary code of practice, claiming that legislation in America is unenforceable. The Confederation of British Industry says older workers cost more and are harder to retrain.

Phillip Walker, who runs the Campaign against Age Discrimination in Employment, tried to commit suicide when he lost his directorship of an advertising company. He has compiled 5,000 case histories of age discrimination. "We have a range of people who have been discriminated against from security officers in supermarkets to chief executives," he said.

Lords warn of fishing job losses

A House of Lords select committee has given a warning that overfishing could lead to huge job losses and the demise of fishing communities. The Earl of Selborne, chairman of the Lords Science and Technology Committee, said that the "stupid" quota system encouraged overfishing and that the Government had not given the problem serious attention until recently. "We are depleting our stocks, for a failure of political will," he said.

Police raid club

Police raided a nightclub near Stockton-on-Tees, arresting 25 people for suspected drugs offences. More than 200 officers from the Cleveland and Northumbria forces were involved, searching the Coliseum club with dogs while a helicopter monitored the scene.

Hi-tech purée

Purée from genetically modified tomatoes goes on sale at Safeway and Sainsbury's today. Scientists have taken one of the "rotting" genes out of the tomato to allow longer-lasting, firmer-textured fruit to be produced. The modified tomato itself is not for sale.

Ban on couples

The Royal Navy plans to enforce its ruling against married couples serving together by ordering them to speak up if they are posted to the same ship. Even if two ratings marry while serving together, one will normally be moved elsewhere.

Train surfers

Two boys who were caught "train surfing" — riding on top of fast-moving rail carriages — may be prosecuted in what is thought to be the first case of its kind, police said yesterday. The boys, aged 12 and 14, were caught in Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Street wise

Viewers of *Coronation Street* are using the Internet to alert each other to future twists in the plot. In the past four months, 25,000 people have logged on to the unofficial World Wide Web site devoted to news and gossip on the 35-year-old soap opera.

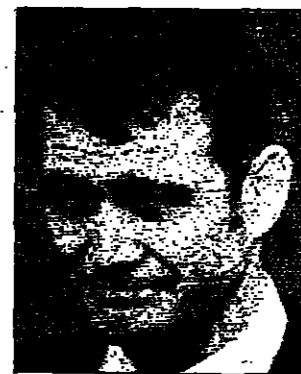
New ballistic test 'will clear Clegg'

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SUPPORTERS of Lance Corporal Lee Clegg, the paratrooper who was jailed for the murder of a joyrider in West Belfast, said yesterday that they had new evidence which they hoped would quash his conviction.

Simon McKay, Clegg's legal adviser, said that ballistics tests carried out on fragments of bullets used in the shooting showed that the paratrooper did not fire an illegal shot.

Clegg, 27, was jailed for life in 1993 for the murder of Karen Reilly, who died when he and colleagues opened fire on a joyrider's car after it drove through a checkpoint in 1990. The paratrooper, who fired four shots at the car, was convicted of murder because Mr Justice Campbell ruled at Belfast Crown Court that he fired the fourth shot illegally.



Lee Clegg's supporters want conviction quashed

at the back of the car after the perceived threat had passed. Clegg was released on licence last July.

Mr McKay said the report would show that a bullet previously not linked to any soldier was Clegg's fourth shot, fired at the car's front wheel-arch.

Rethink on RAF swaps after crash

THE Royal Air Force is reviewing its exchange posting scheme after a crash last month involving a Tornado flown by an Italian pilot.

An RAF Tornado GR1 from 14 Squadron at Brüggen in Germany crashed into a wood southwest of Munster. The pilot, an Italian Air Force officer, and the RAF navigator both ejected safely.

"The scheme is under scrutiny following this crash," a senior officer said. "There have been a number of incidents which confirm our view that Italian pilots can be too temperamental when cool heads are required."

The £20 million Tornado suffered a minor instrument failure, but not at a critical moment. Concern was expressed as to why the Italian ordered immediate ejection.

The scheme involves crew from the United States and other European air forces. "The Yanks are by far the nearest to our standards but the Italians leave much to be desired," the officer said.

Gun police sue over ear damage

MORE than 100 police officers are preparing compensation claims totalling millions of pounds, alleging that they suffered hearing damage during firearms training.

Solicitors backed by the Police Federation are preparing files on the cases after a £150,000 settlement involving a former Leicestershire inspector last week.

Barry Poole, 55, was awarded the money in an out-of-court award on Wednesday. Mr Poole, of Ashby de la Zouch, was discharged from the force in 1989 because of his increasing deafness. He suffers tinnitus and cannot hear conversational speech.

The High Court was told that he was exposed to dangerous noise levels before ear protectors were introduced in 1972. The Chief Constable of Leicestershire and the county council denied liability.

Leicestershire could face further claims, as could the West Midlands, Northampton, Nottinghamshire, West Mercia and Staffordshire.

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*OUTBOUND TRAVEL MUST COMMENCE BY 31st MARCH 1996

Tory critics
 attack on
 sentencing

 Court tells stat
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 best rates

Former minister voices concerns

Tory critics add to attack on Howard sentencing reform

By Frances Gibb and Richard Ford

MICHAEL HOWARD'S plans for automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and violent offenders were attacked yesterday by one of his former prison ministers...

He said on GMTV: "One shouldn't, if one is Home Secretary, seek to impose one's views either on colleagues or on the legislature..."

Under the proposals, minimum sentences will be imposed on persistent burglars and drug dealers, and automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and other violent offenders...

The criticism came after the Home Secretary made a robust defence of his plans at what he described as a "very vigorous" private meeting with judges in Northampton on Saturday...

"I don't think he has convinced the judiciary or myself yet that his approach with this very real point is the right one," he said. "I don't think we're talking about very large numbers and I don't think we need to go to something cumbersome like a life sentence for the second offence..."

He added: "At present, double rapists or those who committed two violent offences have to be released without any assessment of risk, even if it is known that they continue to pose a risk..."

His proposal for minimum sentences for drug dealers and persistent burglars provoked the most criticism at the meeting...

Paul Cavadin, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, an alliance of 30 groups in the penal system, doubted if judges would reduce sentence lengths and lay themselves open to claims of "going soft"...

should not even be a life sentence available, even on a discretionary basis, for murder," he said.

But Mr Howard made clear that automatic life sentences would, like discretionary life sentences, have the release date decided by the Parole Board and not the Home Secretary...

The aim, he said, was to ensure that "in these particularly serious and unpredictable cases, we do not release prisoners who are a continuing threat to the public..."

He added: "At present, double rapists or those who committed two violent offences have to be released without any assessment of risk, even if it is known that they continue to pose a risk..."

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Yesterday's villains: from left, the gang bosses Charles Richardson, Jack 'Spot' Comer and his rival Billy Hill

Crime families are pushed out by new breed of drug gangster

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

A NEW type of sophisticated young gangster is taking over Britain's underworld and ousting the traditional criminal families...

Research compiled for chief constables identified 300 leading criminals who stay in the background as "fixers" and organisers, hiding behind legitimate businesses and arranging the links for big drug consignments or distributing expensive stolen cars...

Traditional family gangs still exist in cities such as London, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne, but their influence is diminishing...

Colin Phillips, the Assistant Chief Constable heading CID in Greater Manchester and the leader of the research team, said: "The criminals network as assiduously as businessmen..."

The Krays adopted a high profile, cultivating society contacts and trying without a great deal of success to move into the West End of London...

They move quickly with drug trends. In the 1990s they have invested in raves and the supply of synthetic drugs from the Continent...

Police are already talking about creating "intelligence cells" similar to those used in the armed services, to update senior officers and detectives...

The research ordered by the chief constables shows that forces could work together more to combat gangs and criminals who travel widely to commit crime...

Police are also being urged to build detailed and constantly updated assessments on organised crime, modelled on those used against the IRA...

Mr Smith, who recently visited Singapore to study its system of social security, is determined that Labour would tackle the problem of the £90 billion-a-year benefits bill...

He added: "We are looking at options to see if right up at the top end of the scale there might be some way to claw back some of the money that goes to people who actually don't need it..."

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Labour may 'claw back' child benefit from rich

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

LABOUR is considering taxing child benefits for the richest families in an attempt to curb rising welfare costs...

Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said yesterday: "I want to look at the 'Duchess of Westminster' problem, where people who are right up at the top end of the income scale can still walk down the road and into a post office and draw child benefit..."

He added: "We are looking at options to see if right up at the top end of the scale there might be some way to claw back some of the money that goes to people who actually don't need it..."

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Council tells staff to drop 14-week leave or be sacked

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

STAFF employed by a Labour council will receive redundancy notices today with a warning that they can have their jobs back only if they agree to new contracts cutting their annual holidays by up to nine weeks...

Long-serving staff at Camden are entitled to up to 14 weeks' paid leave. Another London Labour council is to end a no-redundancy policy...

Camden's action comes after two years of fruitless attempts to negotiate new contracts cutting leave for 3,200 of its 6,000 town hall staff...

They have been entitled to 50 days a year dependency leave to look after sick, close relatives. Given a five-day working week, this can amount to ten weeks a year in addition to the four-week allowance for which every staff member qualifies...

Since 1993 the council has been prepared to offer a contract granting only five days leave a year on dependency grounds, but staff employed before then still benefit from the old terms...

The new contract also halves the amount of time off allowed to staff members working flexitime from two days to one day each four weeks. New recruits will qualify for the council's 40-week maternity leave only after they have been employed for a year...

Among those who will receive a redundancy notice are many of the 33 staff of the council's homeless unit, who reported for work last week after sharing a £10 million win in the National Lottery...

Unison, the staff union, is to call meetings this week to consider industrial action in protest at the new contracts. About 2,400 staff members have signed them but the remaining 3,200 have so far refused...

Hackney councillors have voted to end a no-redundancy policy which has cost £2 million a year. From April, staff who are no longer wanted by their department will have six months to find a permanent post elsewhere on the council or face redundancy...

The council plans savings of another £13 million which will mean compulsory redundancies for up to 100 people.

Dr Paul Mellars, Reader in Archaeology at Cambridge University, says in a new book that the reason lies in language. The ability to describe things accurately enables categories to be created: "a name goes with a mental image"...

The forms of Neanderthal tools vary continuously, while the tools of Homo sapiens are much more clearly divided into categories...

"One fascinating possibility is that modern humans had fully complex language, and Neanderthals had only a proto-language. Modern humans were much better at planning, which requires storing and passing on information. You can't do that without language..."

Reith lecturer, page 13

HOW POLICE SEE BRITAIN'S GANG THREAT

Infographic showing various types of gangs: Russian Mafia, Madras, Nigerian West African criminal groups, Yardies, Tribes, British Gangs.

NatWest Interest Rates table showing various savings and loan products with interest rates.

Primitives who failed to have last word. Article by Nigel Hawkes about Neanderthal man and language.

Colonial Direct advertisement for mortgages, offering a 2% discount for 2 years and a 5.49% APR rate.

هناك فاضل الاجل

Dancing in the aisles as rector wins fight to sell pews

By ADRIAN LEE

A VILLAGE rector has won approval to remove historic oak pews from his church to give his growing "charismatic" congregation more space to clap and dance. Diocesan officials have given their blessing for the 150-year-old pews at the picturesque St Nicholas's Church at Ashill, near Watton, Norfolk, to be replaced with modern chairs. The issue split the village and the rector, the Rev Martin Down, argued that the 14th-century church was a living place of worship not an antique shop. He said yesterday: "I am surprised by all the fuss. It is the sort of thing that only happens in small villages."

The Norwich diocese received 80 letters about the 16 pews in the south aisle. An advisory committee that visited the church said it had "no objection in principle" to the pews' removal. The congregation has grown from about 25 to more than 90 since Mr Down arrived but his charismatic services have upset some traditionalists.

The ornate pews are now likely to be sold to a crematorium or to another church for a four-figure sum to help to meet refurbishment costs. Mr Down, 55, added: "The committee said it would like to see them in a place of worship rather than a pub. There was never any question of them being destroyed."

If the diocesan chancellor ratifies the approval, opponents still plan an appeal to a church court. The rector has been supported by his church council, but opposed by the parish council. Richard Leighton, its chairman, said: "I would be horrified if the pews were sold. I hope they will be put in storage. These charismatic worshippers may be gone in five years."

State school agrees separate RE for Muslim children

By PETER FOSTER

A PRIMARY school in Birmingham is to become the first state school in Britain to make its own arrangements for Muslim religious education. The move, which departs from the 1988 Education Act's demand for a daily act of collective worship "of a broadly Christian character", follows the withdrawal of 1,500 Muslim children from religious education lessons in West Yorkshire last month.

Muslim parents at Birchfield Primary in Aston, Birmingham, where 70 per cent of pupils are Muslims, say that multi-faith religious education has failed their community's children.

Mohamed Mukadam, a parent governor at the school, said on BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme yesterday: "When you understand the multi-faith approach you realise that it is actually designed to destroy all faiths because it

teaches that all faiths are equal.

"If you ask a child to choose a religion he will say, well, if they are all equal I can become a Sikh tomorrow, a Buddhist on Wednesday, a Christian on Sunday. The danger is that in the end he becomes nothing."

Mr Mukadam also paid tribute to the school's headmaster, a committed Christian, for respecting the rights of Muslim parents. The new syllabus has been agreed by all the concerned parties including Birmingham City Council and the Schools Advisory Council on Religious Education which is responsible for RE curriculums on a local level.

A trained Muslim teacher has been appointed to run the Islamic course, which will be attended by more than 500 children. Multi-faith classes will still be available for children whose parents do not

want them to attend the lessons for Muslims.

The Department for Education said yesterday that it had no objection to the school's decision: "Ultimately, it is for parents and schools to decide on a local level what form religious education should take. Also, all parents have an absolute right to withdraw their children from all RE classes if they so wish."

A right-wing education pressure group has also backed the Muslim community's wish for separate religious education. Fred Naylor, secretary of the Parental Alliance for Choice in Education said that the multi-faith ethos of the 1988 act had caused confusion and weakened individual religious commitment.

He said: "What we should be respecting is the right of other people to have their own faith", adding that the multi-faith approach was "an attack



Mohamed Mukadam, parent governor, says today's religious education destroys faith.

on parental rights, and that's why I am so sympathetic to the Muslims for defying this, giving a lead, which I hope Christians will take".

But the Professional Council for Religious Education said that parents were misunderstanding the purpose of RE lessons. Lat Blaylock, the council's executive officer,

said: "School RE is educational. It's not about indoctrination or conversion - it doesn't have that as an aim and it doesn't happen as a result of school RE."

I don't think this kind of separate development is really in the interests of the children. In the primary age group the learning is from one or two

different religions, a reasonable way forward."

Yesterday Mr Mukadam met the Muslim parents who withdrew their children from schools in West Yorkshire last month. He argued against withdrawing children in favour of the system adopted in Birmingham of actively teaching Islam to Muslim children.

Gay priests campaign played down by Church

By A STAFF REPORTER

MORE than 300 Anglican church leaders worldwide, including a number of Church of England bishops, are backing a call for a debate into the ordination of practising homosexuals as priests. They are signatories of an advertisement that will appear in religious newspapers on Friday to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.

Yesterday the Church of England played down the significance of the advertisement, saying a call for debate should not be interpreted as support for one side of the argument. The Rev Eric Shegog, the Church's spokesman, said: "The advert does not change anything."

The Rev Richard Kirker, secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, which campaigns for homosexuals to be ordained, declined yesterday to say which Church of England bishops had signed the advertisement. It is thought not specifically to call for the ban on practising homosexual clergy to be lifted. Mr Kirker said: "We are committed to trying to make the Church do what it should do instinctively - to make clear that all people are welcome."

He also confirmed that the movement would be announcing this week that it had been given permission to hold a service to celebrate its 20 years, at Southwark Cathedral later this year.

Mr Kirker said thousands of gay and lesbian members of the clergy were not celibate, because they were in a stable relationship or wanted to be in such a relationship. "Homosexual clergy are victimised by being made to pretend they are not in a relationship. That's the price they have to pay if they wish to receive support from their employers."

Mr Shegog said the House of Bishops had called for a debate on the issue in 1991 while making clear that active homosexual practice among the clergy was unacceptable. "That debate has been going on since then, so all these posters and the clergy who have signed are saying is that they want to encourage debate."

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Convents resort to classified ads

A BIG drop in the number of British nuns has forced many religious orders to abandon their rejection of the material world and advertise for new recruits. Catholic convents are closing one by one as an ageing population of nuns dies and young women, rejecting a life of sacrifice, fail to come forward.

The classified section of the Catholic Herald is full of small ads from orders exhorting volunteers to devote themselves to a spiritual way of life. A spokesman for the newspaper said: "Convents and monasteries have for a long time used the classified section to attract new recruits, but there have been more and more of late, often emphasising a New Age rejection of



Adverts in the Catholic Herald for new recruits

mainstream society. Most are desperate to attract younger women before their order dies out altogether. They must get some response because they keep advertising and the ads are on the increase."

Since 1985, more than 2,500 sisters have been lost from

Britain's 200 orders and, of the 8,000 remaining, almost half are more than 70 years old. Nuns between 30 and 50 years old account for only 10 per cent of the total, according to figures from the Catholic Media Office. Kieran Conry, of the Media Office, said:

"Some orders are doing better than others, but the ones that are doing worst are the enclosed orders and those founded for specific jobs like teaching and nursing."

"When they were founded centuries ago, there was no welfare state and they provided a service - they helped the poorest members of the community. Now there is free schooling for all and the National Health Service. Nuns have been supplanted by the State."

One of the most popular Catholic girls' schools in the country, St Mary's, Ascot, was handed over to local authority control last year when the number of pupils and nuns fell to an unsustainable level. With nuns adopting mass media advertising methods, one, Sister Lavinia Burn, who works for the National Religious Vocation Centre, has chosen a high-tech approach. She advertises its advisory and information services for potential nuns and priests on the Internet under the name Cyber-Nun.

Roddick puts ethics first at green college

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ANITA RODDICK, the founder of The Body Shop, is to launch a "green college" in a crusade to ensure that tomorrow's business leaders are more ethically aware.

Mrs Roddick, a former teacher, wants her courses to be as environmentally friendly as the mango body butter and raspberry ripple bath bubbles on sale in her high-street stores. Lectures at her New Academy of Business will build on the lessons learnt in turning The Body Shop from a small boutique in Brighton into a global empire with 1,200 outlets.

Mrs Roddick has spent £250,000 preparing a series of short courses for those already working in industry. The next stage is to develop a masters degree awarded by an existing university and the long-term plan is for full undergraduate courses. Mrs Roddick trained as a

secondary school teacher in Bath and spent several years in the classroom before embarking on her business career. She now earns £122,000 as chief executive of Body Shop International.

Courses will teach regard for human rights, spirituality in business life and "socially responsible investment and finance". Ms Roddick said: "Business education must contain the language and notion of social justice, human rights, community economics and the development of the human spirit."

Dr David Wheeler, head of ethical audit at The Body Shop and an authority on waste reduction and the reuse of materials, is helping to set up courses. Gill Coleman, who has spent four years as director of studies for the MBA in international business at Bristol University, is the academy's course director.

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Official history lifts lid on undercover missions that prepared the ground for D-Day

How secret fishing fleet carried spies to occupied France

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE full story of how clandestine flotillas were used to ferry secret agents in and out of France and North Africa during the early years of the Second World War has been disclosed after an unprecedented decision to open the archives of the Secret Intelligence Service and the Special Operations Executive.

Sir Brooks Richards, an official historian who served with the SOE in the war and was security co-ordinator in Northern Ireland in the early 1980s, was allowed to see the files of "O" section of the SIS, which was involved in the covert operations that helped to provide intelligence during the years leading up to the D-Day landings.

The fall of France in June 1940 had left the coastline of Western Europe in hostile hands. It was as great a strategic threat to Britain as any since the Spanish Armada. The secret services were



Richards: given unique access to secret files

under enormous pressure to gather intelligence, particularly on any attempt by the Germans to mount an invasion. The SIS man charged with establishing links with agents in occupied France was Commander Frank Slocum, known as "O".

Much has been written about the covert air opera-

tions, but Sir Brooks says that his book, *Secret Flotillas*, is the first to tell of the naval crews who carried agents to France. He had unique access to closed official intelligence files for the book, which is published by HMSO in association with the Cabinet Office.

In 1940, the SIS had no available assets in France because of a gentleman's agreement with the French *Service de Renseignements* not to conduct espionage. Slocum had to start from scratch, recruiting, training and briefing agents. The SIS sought help from intelligence officers working with the Vichy Government and also from the intelligence service of the exiled Polish Government, whose officers ran daring operations for SIS from Gibraltar to Morocco.

Slocum set up two sections to obtain intelligence in France, one under Commander Wilfred Dunderdale, who had been head of the SIS's Paris station until the fall of France, and Commander Kenneth Cohen. Between June and October 1940 agents were landed in The Netherlands, Belgium and the north coast of France from whatever surface craft were available. The first French operation recorded by Slocum, successfully landed an agent near Brest on the night of June 20, 1940.

Dunderdale's section ran operations in Brittany using Breton fishing vessels. His operational base was in Mylor Creek, near Falmouth, Cornwall. The crews were Free French naval volunteers on secondment to the SIS.

Sir Brooks, who at one point ran guns to Corsica by submarine, said that one remarkable agent was a Frenchman called Daniel Lomenech, who was only 19 when first recruited. He had escaped from France and volunteered to go back as an SIS agent.

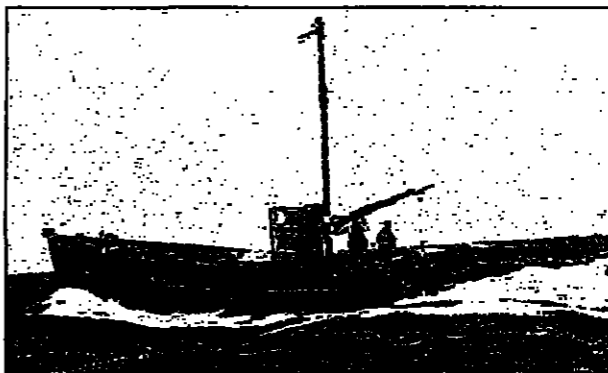
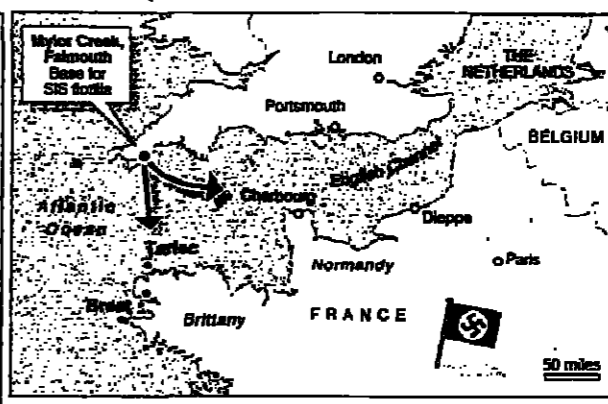
Early in November 1940 he landed on a beach in Brittany with another agent from a trawler. It returned a month later but developed engine trouble and while it was being repaired at a French port, the four crew went off drinking. When they returned, the boat had blown away.

Sir Brooks said: "It was an awkward situation, four sailors without a boat... and two spies stranded with their intelligence becoming stale." Lomenech eventually returned in another boat.

The missing boat was reported to the French authori-



The Ar-Morscou, left, and L'Angèle-Rouge ran missions to Brittany from their base near Falmouth. The flotillas were set up by Commander Frank Slocum, centre left, and crewed largely by Free French volunteers such as Daniel Lomenech, who was recruited at the age of 19



ties and was recovered, but German military customs learnt of it and found British provisions on board. Berlin was informed that this was the first known case of a fishing boat being used to convey people from England.

In 1942 Slocum got permission for a new 55ft boat to be built with 500-horsepower engines, giving a speed of up to 20 knots. It was named L'Angèle-Rouge, after Slocum's auburn-haired secretary, Miss Sykes-Wright. Another was the salvaged Ar-Morscou, which Lomenech had found half-submerged in Newlyn harbour.

The "strikingly handsome" Lomenech commanded the L'Angèle-Rouge on its first three operations, before transferring to submarines. He was awarded the DSO in October 1942.

Later, when L'Angèle-Rouge was commanded by Lomenech's successor, Lieutenant J.J. Allen, it ran into the middle of a German convoy while returning to England with two agents and secret mail. As the German warships steamed by, the SIS men could hear the sound of a gramophone playing and saw German officers peering at them through binoculars. But the convoy passed on.

Another legendary wartime SIS figure was David Birkin,

father of the actress Jane Birkin. He joined Slocum's section after Naval Signal School and took part in numerous clandestine trips to France.

Sir Brooks said Birkin found "the Scarlet Pimpernel" character of the work fascinating, although he was not a natural sailor. Like Nelson, he never overcame seasickness and always had to work with a bucket and towel at hand. As navigator on 33 missions, he carried in his jacket pockets his pipe, enough tobacco for two days, his box of survival

rations, a bottle of morphine tablets and a Luger.

Until silence became a necessity as they approached their rendezvous point, their progress across the Channel would normally be accompanied by the strains of the ship's radio, usually playing Vera Lynn. In one mission, Birkin was sent to pick up seven airmen from the island of Tarcie, near Brest. They had made their way past German patrols by disguising themselves as seaweed gatherers and shell collectors.

Slocum's counterpart at the

SOE was Leslie Humphreys, who was also told to organise a section to run agents in France. In one rendezvous to pick up intelligence material, an agent called Gerry Holdsworth took a boat to the French coast and met a sailing vessel whose two-man crew handed him a package of clandestine mail. On their return to England, they were spotted by a customs officer who demanded to see the contents of the bag. Holdsworth refused but later had to get a licence from the customs service, granting him

immunity from inspection for the rest of the war.

In the case of another SOE mission, which took place on the night of February 25, 1944, no detailed report has been preserved, except the name of one of two passengers being dropped off at a headland, called Beg-an-Fry. It was a young François Mitterrand, future President of France. The SOE had offered to return him to France after De Gaulle refused to do so, possibly because of Mitterrand's known connections with the Vichy Government.



SIS man David Birkin, with his daughter Jane



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THE TIMES DILLONS LECTURE

Richard Leakey and the Sixth Extinction

THE FIVE mass extinctions of species on the planet were all natural disasters. Speaking at a Times/Dillons lecture on Monday, February 12, chaired by Richard Dawkins, Richard Leakey, the Kenyan politician and renowned palaeoanthropologist and conservationist, will warn us that we are heading for a sixth.

Our capacity to exploit the world's resources beyond the point of natural renewal is leading us to the verge of a man-made catastrophe, he says. *Homo sapiens* could destroy entire species and trigger the sixth extinction.

The lecture marks the publication of Dr Leakey's new book (with Roger Lewin), *The Sixth Extinction: Biodiversity and Its Survival* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99), and will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (£7.50 concessions), which includes £3 off the price of Dr Leakey's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-580 7680, or by sending the coupon with your remittance to: Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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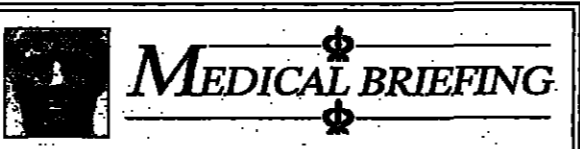
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Balkan havoc lets slip the mice of war



WARS have been endemic in the Balkans for centuries. Where there is war there is squalor, and where there is squalor there are rats and mice. It is therefore not surprising that the Balkans also have an endemic kidney disease that is spread by rodents. From time to time this causes epidemics and whenever an army fights over countryside there is an outbreak.

In Bosnia, the first British soldier has fallen victim to Balkan nephropathy, one of the group of diseases, the Hanta virus, spread by eating mouse or rat droppings, or food contaminated by rodents' urine. The soldier has made a good recovery.

The virus is named after a Korean river, and was described as the cause of the local variety of the disease - Korean Haemorrhagic Fever - long after that war ended and the armies returned to their home bases.

In Korea the disease, which causes pain and tenderness over the renal angle and poor kidney function, sometimes resulting in complete renal failure, is particularly lethal, with a 20 per cent mortality rate. The Hanta viruses also cause spontaneous bleeding in organs other than the kidney, the skin and sometimes the brain and spinal cord, so that patients develop stroke-type symptoms. In wars, or in

large-scale army manoeuvres, the rats and mice are as much on the move as the armies. They are disturbed from their normal habitats and, by taking advantage of a sudden increase in food available, breed rapidly.

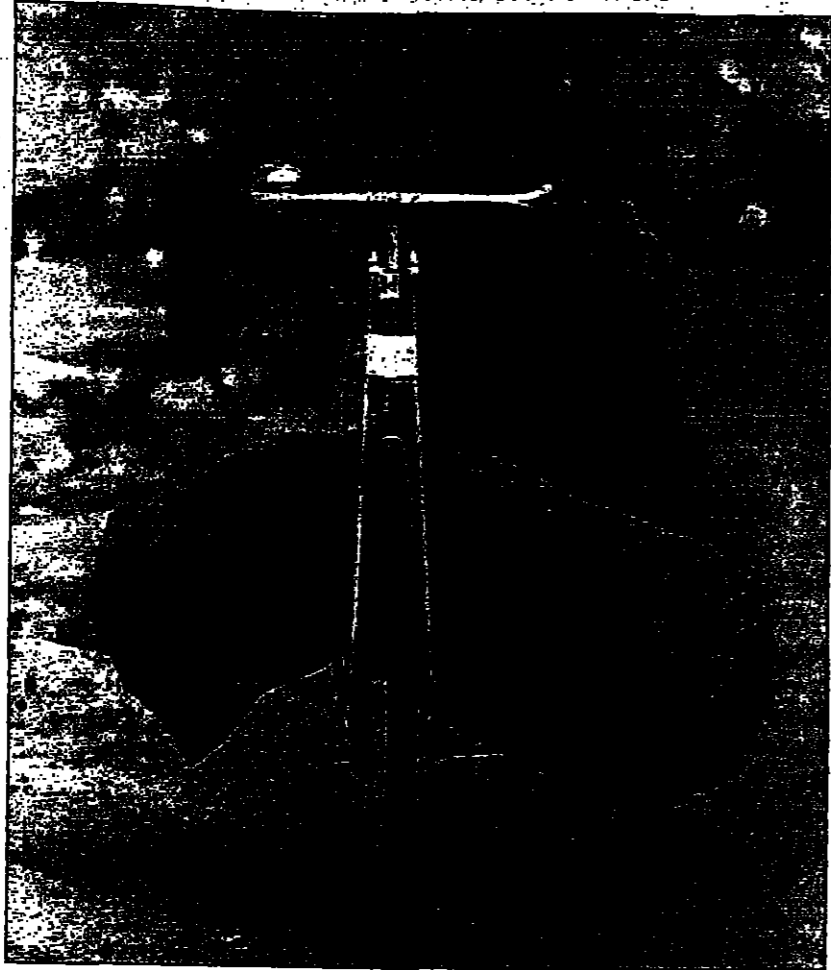
The risk to soldiers depends on the war zone. If they were not careful to keep the mouse droppings out of the soup in Korea, the death rate was as high as 20 per cent, whereas the variety of the virus which would be found by any of our special forces exercising in northern Europe causes a comparatively benign strain which has a death rate of only 1 per cent.

In terms of its lethal effect, the Balkans species is probably midway between the Far East version and the Scandinavian.

As there has been no war on American soil since the Civil War, the virulence of the local virus has not been thoroughly tested, but it is interesting that, although the Americans are great at living an out-of-doors life, the type of Hanta virus found in American rats and mice has never been known to affect people. The American army in Germany, however, suffered a serious outbreak after exercises in 1990.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Red Cross braves siege of Kabul to deliver aid for the victims of war



An Afghan boy, left, ferries home a bag of charcoal delivered to Kabul by the first flight of a Red Cross airlift. Veiled women, right, brandishing their ID cards, wait for food at the city's airport.



Twenty tonnes of emergency supplies were brought into the besieged and starving city on Saturday, but the International Committee of the Red Cross was forced to delay its operation by Customs officials in Pakistan. Relief agency sources said the Red Cross did not have an export license.

Andrei Mermillon, relief co-ordinator with the Red Cross, said: "The distribution today is for Kabul's war wounded, resulting from mines, rockets or bullets, and we will be supplying 945 families, about 5,000 to 6,000 people."

Pakistan Customs said yesterday that they would allow the Red Cross to resume its airlift today.

Kabul has been virtually cut off for nearly three weeks, with only occasional supplies reaching the city. Taleban fighters, entrenched in hills, have kept up a siege since October, vowing to replace President Burhanuddin Rabbani with a militant Islamic order.

Yesterday rebels fired artillery at Kabul, wounding two people. Seven artillery rounds hit a residential area of the city, witnesses said.

PHOTOGRAPHS: ADRIAN BROOKS

Strong quake kills 240 in Chinese town

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINESE rescue workers continued last night searching for survivors in the rubble of the remote town of Lijiang after one of the region's worst earthquakes in years, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale. The town, near the Tibetan border, was devastated and at least 240 people were killed and nearly 4,000 injured.

About 2,000 soldiers and police, supported by squads of doctors and nurses, were scouring the remains of mud-brick homes which collapsed when the earthquake struck Lijiang and surrounding villages in southwest Yunnan province, a provincial official said in Kunming, 1,300 miles from Peking.

Some people drowned in flash floods, officials said, and on one Lijiang farm 29 people were killed. About 10 per cent of the old-style houses in Lijiang were destroyed and water and electricity cut.

The toll could rise as rescue workers reach more isolated hamlets, the spokesman said. He described the earthquake as "terrifying".

The tremor shook the rugged, mountainous district for about six seconds at 7.14pm local time on Saturday when most people were at home. Residents fled into the street. Fearing aftershocks, they camped outdoors overnight, despite near-freezing temperatures.

Foreign tourists visiting the remote and scenic district that is the home of China's Naxi ethnic minority were evacuated from hotels in Lijiang and



moved into tents, spending the night around fires in the main city square.

More than 150 aftershocks have been recorded, including 18 measuring more than 4.0 on the Richter scale. About 16 of the 24 towns in the county also suffered considerable damage, officials said.

The nearby town of Zhongdian, capital of the Daping Tibetan autonomous region, was cut off from the outside world, the Xinhua agency said, adding that Yunnan's provincial government had sent officials to the area.

Seismologists last month forecast several earthquakes measuring from 6.0 to 7.0 in the region, Xinhua said. Since 1930, three earthquakes measuring more than 6.0 on the Richter scale have hit Lijiang and Zhongdian, the agency said. Southwest Yunnan is prone to earthquakes and was struck several times last year.

At a plea: The Red Cross Society of China appealed for international aid, saying it had informed the International Red Cross and sent five medical teams and 900,000 yuan (£7,500) worth of food, clothes, medicines and quilts to victims. (Reuters)

Patten calls for talks on colony

FROM JONATHAN MERSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday urged the Peking-appointed Preparatory Committee, which will formulate the government taking over next year, to enter into discussions with the Legislative Council.

In a radio address to the city, Mr Patten said everyone involved had a shared interest for "Hong Kong to make it through to 1998 and beyond in the best possible shape despite the pessimists and the critics". His suggestion is unlikely to find favour in Peking.

The committee was inaugurated ten days ago in Peking with a speech by President Jiang Zemin. Its 150 members, more than 90 of whom come from Hong Kong, were appointed by Peking and the body is chaired by Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister. Fourteen members concurrently sit on the Legislative Council, the 60-member democratically elected parliament.

The Preparatory Committee's main job is to recommend a 400-member "election committee" which will recommend a chief executive to succeed Mr Patten.

Peking acts to police Internet

BY JAMES PRINGLE

THE Chinese authorities yesterday issued regulations governing access to the Internet. The rules take effect immediately and require all computer companies that provide access to the Internet to be officially approved. They also prohibit the distribution and reception of "seditious and pornographic" material.

Xinhua, the Chinese news agency, said anyone violating the regulations would be seriously dealt with. Diplomats said the Chinese move reflected a growing concern among many countries about the lack of direct legal regulation over the material which is readily available on the Internet in increasing quantities.

Under rules issued by Xinhua, all computer information networks must use channels provided by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPT) to hook up to networks abroad. All interactive networks will be subject to management by the MPT, the Ministry of Electronics Industry, the State Education Commission and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the regulations stipulate.

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Republican also-rans spot an opening as race turns into a frantic gallop

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS in Louisiana cast the first votes tomorrow in the shortest, and potentially most symbolic race yet for an American presidential nomination. A record 33 of the 50 states will be holding primaries and caucuses over the next 48 hectic days because many, including California, have advanced their contests to try to increase their influence. This truncation seemed of little consequence when Robert Dole,

the veteran Senate majority leader, was prohibitive favourite for the Republican nomination, but could matter immensely now his campaign is faltering. Steve Forbes, the multi-millionaire publisher, has exposed the shallowness of Mr Dole's support, but the political novice is scarcely a credible nominee himself. Were his balloon to burst — as many analysts predict — the Texas senator, Phil Gramm, former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, the conservative commentator Pat Buchanan, or even Indiana's Sen-

ator Richard Lugar could emerge from the obscurity in which they have languished so long. In no state after Iowa and New Hampshire will Republican voters have the chance seriously to evaluate those alternatives to Mr Dole. The crush of contests will prevent real campaigning or meaningful debate. Candidates will be forced to sell themselves through 30-second commercials and airport soundbites. The compressed timetable favours Mr Dole as easily the best-known and best-financed candid-

ate. But it means by late March the Republicans will be saddled with either a nominee who demonstrably fails to excite the troops or one hardly tested. Either way he will be nearly broke, but ineligible for federal funds until his status is confirmed at a convention postponed until August because of July's Atlanta Olympics. By contrast, President Clinton, who faces no challenge for the Democratic nomination, will have a huge war chest to spend. The irony is that the impact of the Iowa and New Hampshire

contests will be greater than ever, while those states that advanced contests have diminished, not increased, their influence. Louisiana is a prime example. Only Mr Gratum, Mr Buchanan and Alan Keyes, a black radio chat-show host, are contesting tomorrow's caucuses. The other six candidates feared offending Iowa voters furious that Louisiana is challenging that state's right to hold the nation's first caucus. The Louisiana caucuses have thus been devalued, but are nonetheless an important subplot. All

three contestants are hardline conservatives. Whoever wins will portray himself as the true conservative standard-bearer going into next Tuesday's Iowa caucuses while the credibility of the losers will be badly damaged. The stakes are especially high for Mr Gramm. From neighbouring Texas, he has worked Louisiana hard and has the backing of the state's Republican hierarchy which has rigged the rules to help him. To lose Louisiana would be a disaster, but he is being pressed hard by Mr Buchanan, the man

who savaged President Bush in 1992's Republican primaries. Mr Buchanan is claiming the populist mantle of Huey Long, Louisiana's legendary Governor of the 1930s, presenting himself as the champion of ordinary working men against corporations moving jobs abroad. He won last week's straw poll of 10,000 Republicans in Alaska and is edging upwards in New Hampshire polls. He argues: "If we can come out of Louisiana with a dramatic showing, I think it is all over for Phil Gramm."

Big freeze across America kills 42 and blights crops

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ARCTIC cold swept across North America at the weekend, threatening to freeze the ears off cattle in Canada and endangering the citrus crop as far south as Florida. Record low temperatures were measured from the Rocky Mountains in the West to the Atlantic coast and well into the Deep South. The tiny Minnesota town of Tower, which has a population of 500, broke a 97-year-old state record to become the coldest place in the United States at -60C (-76F). In Chicago, where 600 people died in a heatwave last summer, the authorities put their new "extreme weather operation plan" into operation to protect residents. In Washington, which is still recovering from last month's huge blizzard, Marion Barry, the Mayor, appealed for federal assistance to clear 8 in of snow. New record lows were posted for Utah, where Salt Lake City fell to -24C (-12F) and Alabama, where Huntsville posted a low of -14C (7F). The temperature in normally steamy New Orleans plummeted to -5C (23F) while lows of -3C (26F) were expected overnight in citrus-growing areas of central Florida. At least 42 deaths were attributed to the icy weather. In some cases these were due to fires started by individuals trying to keep warm. Tens of thousands of homes

as far south as Louisiana and Mississippi found themselves without electricity as ice brought down powerlines, and garages were flooded with calls from motorists stranded on snow-bound roads. The cold also brought its merrier moments, however. In International Falls, Minnesota, which calls itself the nation's ice box, one resident made a video of boiling water being thrown into the air and freezing before it hit the ground. Two other residents of Minnesota braved a wind-chill factor of -40C (-40F) to get married in an outdoor ceremony at the annual winter carnival in the city of St Paul. Sherry Neary and Ken Wahlgren removed their gloves just long enough to exchange rings, and then slid down 200ft snow slides. "She melted the icicles off his moustache when she was kissing him," a carnival spokeswoman said. The carnival cancelled appearances by all school bands because of the fear that youngsters playing brass instruments would get them frozen to their lips. Despite the freezing temperatures, political campaigning continued in Iowa as Republican presidential contenders vied for votes in forthcoming state caucuses. "This is a good place to meet," Steve Forbes, the mil-

lionaire publisher and presidential hopeful, told a group of voters gathered at a coffee shop. "You can get some hot coffee to warm your hands, and now you can get some hot air to warm the rest of you." Wayne Sharp, a dairy farmer near Valentine, Nebraska, was coping with the severe cold in a house with only a wood-burning stove for heating. "It isn't a lot of fun," he said. "We shut off about four rooms and kind of live in the living room and the kitchen." And while his family was cold, he said his cows were irritable, with frost-bitten teats. In Wisconsin, sponsors of the annual Badger State winter games in Wausau cancelled skiing and other outdoor events. About 5,500 amateurs were registered for the competition. Along the Virginia coast, a cargo ship buffeted by high winds an ground near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Freezing rain put a slippery glaze of ice on roads, trees and power lines across the lower Atlantic Coast states as far south as Georgia. In North Carolina, a US Air jet that had landed at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport slid off a taxiway into grass. None of the crew and 21 passengers aboard the Boeing 737 was injured. The plane, which had arrived from Pittsburgh, was not damaged, according to airport officials.



Cattle, their muzzles and hides frozen by their breath, cluster together for warmth on a farm in Norwalk, Iowa.

Britain a victim of ill wind's flight path

BY W. J. BURROUGHS

ONE reaction to the extremely cold weather gripping much of America is to assume that similar temperatures are coming our way. This seems to be based on the analysis that prevailing westerly winds will carry weather across the Atlantic within a week or so. Taken at face value, this is a fallacy. The surges of Arctic air that bring cold weather to the eastern half of America are played out long before they cross the Atlantic. But there is a more subtle explanation for the possible connection between weather on each side of the

Atlantic. In winter, the westerly circulation of the jet stream, the strong winds in the upper atmosphere in the middle latitudes of the northern hemisphere, can get stuck in a meandering pattern. Because this circulation steers the course of the surface weather systems, it leads to Arctic air being funnelled southwards in some places, while in intermediate regions this is balanced by warm sub-tropical air moving northwards. Cold weather in eastern America is often linked to a circulation pattern centred on the Rocky Mountains, with warm air moving up the West Coast

while to the east cold air sweeps down from Canada. Downstream, the next wave in the meandering pattern can sometimes produce an area of high pressure close to Britain, which brings cold easterly winds. In winters like those in 1940, 1963 and 1979, this pattern can be maintained for weeks. Long-term statistics suggest that there is little justification for assuming that the cold pattern will hold sway, and we are just as likely to have mild weather as to share in the discomfort of our American cousins. Forecast, page 20

China at risk of US sanctions

Washington: The Administration has threatened tough sanctions against China unless it starts to honour a year-old trade deal ending Chinese piracy of American videos, music and computer software. Mickey Kantor, the American trade representative, has threatened 100 per cent tariffs on more than \$1 billion (\$667-million) of Chinese imports unless Peking closes more than 30 factories producing huge quantities of pirated products. The New York Times disclosed yesterday. Some Administration officials fear Washington's hard line will damage its efforts to defuse rising tensions between China and Taiwan.

Settler shoots Arab youth

Jerusalem: A Jewish settler opened fire on Palestinian students near a West Bank school, wounding a 16-year-old. An Israeli army spokesman said the Israeli driver started to fire after stones were thrown at his car. The shooting took place in the Palestinian village of Sawiya, near Nablus. A worker at a hospital in Nablus said the 16-year-old youth was shot in the lower back and his condition after surgery was "moderate". (AP)

Bomb suspect is deported

Nicosia: A Saudi man wanted for the November bombing of the American-run Saudi National Guard training centre in Riyadh, in which five Americans and two Indians died, has been deported to Saudi Arabia (Michael Theodorou writes). Hassan al-Sarraf had lived in Pakistan since 1990. Saudi dissidents blamed the attack on Islamic militants who fought against Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

'Million-dollar kicker' relaxes

New York: Michael Volino, the New York policeman who has won the chance to kick a million-dollar goal at an American football game in Hawaii, has prepared for it by following his wife's advice and relaxing by the pool (James Bone writes). Sergeant Volino will win \$1 million if he scores the equivalent of a rugby place kick from 25 yards.

Gunmen attack publisher

Lagos: Alex Ibru, publisher of Nigeria's leading independent newspaper, The Guardian, has survived a murder attempt, the newspaper said. He was shot inside his car in Lagos. Doctors said Mr Ibru, 61, was hit in the head and may lose his left eye. He was also shot in the leg. (Reuters)

Jerusalem café to take its last orders

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Café Atara, one of Jerusalem's great literary and social landmarks, which has survived for nearly six decades despite shelling and terrorist bombings, is finally to close. It has become the victim of the owner's decision to sell out to Pizza Hut, the latest American company to open a franchise in the Holy City. The Atara, in the heart of Jewish west Jerusalem, reflected the European influence on life in the territory. Moshe Dayan, the war hero, was one of many top politicians who were regulars there. Amos Oz, the novelist, featured the café in one of his bestsellers and countless romances blossomed amid the aroma of finely brewed coffee under its Art Deco roof. The news of its closure has shattered many veteran customers already concerned by what President Weizman has called the "Americanisation" of Israel. Pizza Hut will join a non-kosher McDonald's, Blockbuster Videos, Tower



Moshe Dayan, who was a regular at Café Atara, in west Jerusalem, which is due to become a Pizza Hut

Records and Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream which have all recently opened in the centre of Jerusalem within a few hundred yards of each other. The Atara was founded in 1938 by Heinz Greenspan, a refugee from Nazi Germany. The café immediately attracted a lively and mixed clientele, including British officers, Palestinian businessmen, social-

UN to cut 1,150 jobs at its HQ

BY JAMES BONE

THE United Nations, due to run out of money in April, is planning unprecedented job cuts at its New York headquarters. A confidential memorandum obtained by The Times says it will trim 1,150 people from its 14,000 staff by the end of this year. The secretariat cutbacks have been forced on the UN by America, which lobbied successfully for a reduction in the organisation's budget to placate the Republican-controlled Congress. Members owe the UN about \$3.3 billion in unpaid dues, almost half of which is owed by America. The memorandum, which records a meeting of the advisory panel on management and finance, says 210 professional staff and 490 clerical workers must go. The cuts "may affect some areas to such an extent that the activities cannot be sustained". Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, is expected to announce cost-savings at the General Assembly's budgetary committee tomorrow. It is rumoured he may shut the headquarters for a month.

Christopher tries to hasten pace of Israeli peace talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

WARREN CHRISTOPHER, the US Secretary of State, today launches his seventh and most testing diplomatic mission between Israel and Syria in an attempt to boost peace talks before elections in both Israel and the United States this year. Mr Christopher arrived in Jerusalem to find Israel already embroiled in pre-election fever. However, Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, has yet to make a formal announcement that the date of the poll is being brought forward from October 29 to either late May or early June. After a meeting with Mr Peres yesterday, Ranan Cohen, the head of the ruling Labour Party's Knesset faction, lambasted the Likud opposition for criticising the reported decision to bring forward the poll and forecast that voting would take place on May 14, 21 or 28. Likud, which is lagging badly in the opinion polls as a result of a backlash after the assassination in November of Yitzhak Rabin by a right-wing Jewish fanatic, took large advertisements in yesterday's Is-

raeli papers under the new slogan "Giving Up the Golan is National Suicide". The peace talks with Syria are likely to play a key role in what is expected to be a heated and divisive campaign. American officials are resigned to an early Israeli election, although privately aides close to Mr Christopher admit that it will slow down, if not completely halt, the peace talks that have been taking place in Maryland. Mr Peres, who claims that civil servants and not elected politicians are doing the talking, has vowed to keep the negotiations going, even if an early poll is announced. Yesterday Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Israeli Housing Minister, said Labour needed an early mandate from the people to make fateful decisions in talks with both Syria and the Palestinians. The minister, whose background will be vital in helping Labour win votes among the Oriental Jewish community that has tended to favour Likud in recent years, claimed that early elections were a good idea to reduce the possi-

bility of months of attacks by Palestinian or Islamic terrorists, which could turn the electorate against the peace process. The latest opinion poll published in Israel gave Mr Peres 46 per cent of the vote in his campaign to be re-elected as Prime Minister, compared with only 30 per cent for Binyamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader. Mr Peres has pledged that, if a peace deal with Syria were reached after the election, any decision to hand back the Golan Heights, conquered from Syria in 1967, would be subject to a national referendum. Mr Christopher, who has invested much time and effort in his bid to tie up an Israeli-Syrian peace deal prior to the American presidential election in November, is expected to try to use the likelihood of an imminent poll in Israel as a tool to persuade Syria to hurry the present rather sedate pace of talks. Israel has also asked him to try to arrange a summit between Mr Peres and President Assad, but that is considered unlikely at this stage.





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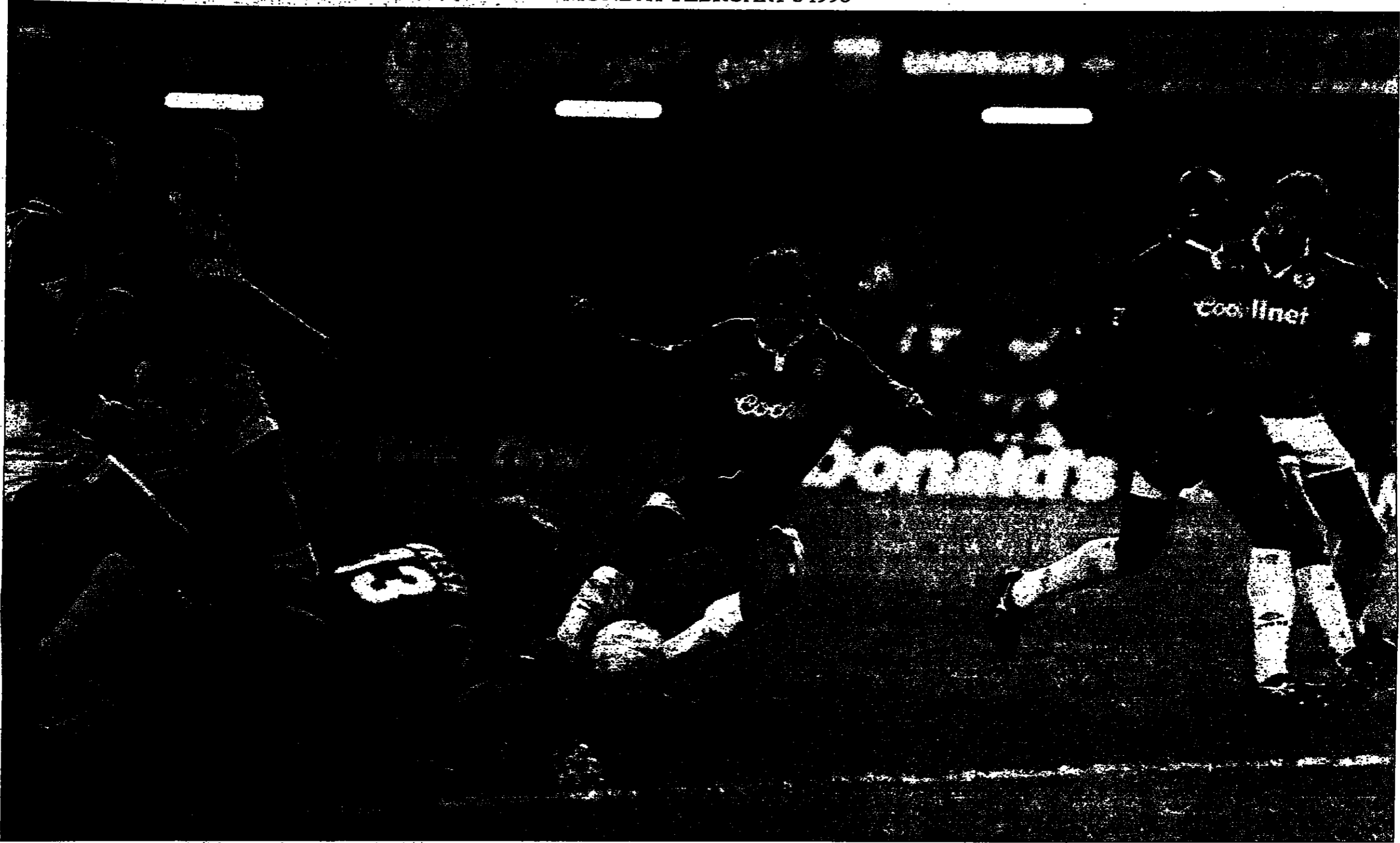
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GOLF	ATHLETICS	RUGBY UNION	SCHOOLS SPORT
 <p>22 Woosnam drives back to top of the world</p>	 <p>23 Gunnell happy to settle for second best</p>	 <p>25 Why are England so slow on the uptake?</p>	 <p>24 Kwik way proves more than hit and miss</p>

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 1996



Peacock sweeps in his second and Chelsea's third goal during their impressive dismissal of an outclassed and shell-shocked Middlesbrough at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Gullit masterminds demolition of Middlesbrough Chelsea turn back the clock

Chelsea 5
Middlesbrough 0
By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

CHELSEA have not flowed like this not dominated opponents or passed the ball with such mellifluous touch for at least a quarter of a century. They were ruthless for 70 minutes yesterday, taking a pitiable Middlesbrough apart, scoring five times when the total could almost have been double.

In fact, this was the biggest Chelsea win in the top flight since 1964 and only Ruud Gullit, of this side, was alive, just, in that vintage year. Glenn Hoddle was then a youngster and is now the builder of this new Chelsea revolution, a builder who learnt that he and his wonderful brand of football was better appreciated on the Continent. So it is that Hoddle may be a target for the Football Association as coach of England instead of the man whose team — whose reserves — his Chelsea so soundly whipped yesterday. Bryan Robson reiterated afterwards that he has not been offered Terry Venables' job and that he feels such an offer would be premature in his coaching life. Hoddle was somewhat more enigmatic when the same proposition was put to him by the

press, for they are messengers only of speculation and Hoddle insists that nobody can turn down a job that 'nobody has been offered'. Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, revelled in rumours of renewed feuding in the boardroom, was in typically 'shy' mood on Saturday when asked if he would release his manager for the betterment of England. 'Glenn would be an absolute idiot if he were to take the England job,' Bates, who happens to be an FA councillor, retorted.

THE saga of Faustino Asprilla's proposed £7 million transfer from Parma to Newcastle United came to an abrupt end when officials of the clubs met in Milan yesterday. Parma, the Italian League club, withdrew from the deal, claiming that Newcastle had tried to cut the fee because of doubts about Asprilla's knee. 'Newcastle continue to maintain that there are problems with Asprilla's knee, and so they want a big cut in the price,' Giorgio Pedraneschi, the Parma president, said after his club's 4-0 win over Sampdoria yesterday. 'We have medical reports which tell us the opposite, and as a result it was not possible to reach any agreement.'

From midfield, Gullit orchestrated the slaughter of the Middlesbrough lambs. The visitors, still struggling to acclimatise to life in the Premiership after their promotion from the Endsleigh Insurance League first division last season, could not cope with not only Juninho but five other

senior players absent. They did not show the slightest knowhow of how to stop a giant Dutchman with a 9ft stride and marvellous peripheral vision. They did not dare go forward enough to prevent David Lee, an English defender, from coming forward to stroke the ball 20 or 30 yards with his right foot as if he were ... well, another Gullit.

With Sir John Hallaway, Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd, directors, in Daytona, and Freddie Fletcher on his way back from Milan, nobody from Newcastle was available to comment last night. That, at least, was in keeping with the progress of negotiations so far, the club having had little to say on the transfer from the moment that doubts surfaced about Asprilla's fitness. The transfer has been on ice for two weeks, ever since an X-ray during Asprilla's medical revealed a problem with his knee. Parma have maintained that this was from an old injury, in 1991, and that Asprilla, the Colombia international forward, has been untroubled since. Newcastle have wanted further tests, which the Italian club refused.

Thus they destroyed Middlesbrough. The first goal, it has to be said, was an error by that excellent referee, Keith Cooper. After a corner from Lee in the 25th minute, Middlesbrough pushed up out of defence, leaving Gullit patently offside, his enormous frame right in front of the goalkeeper, Walsh. Nevertheless, when Peacock struck the ball with his right foot, the shot was allowed to bounce in front of and then past the unsuspecting keeper and to count as a goal.

That slight excuse began Middlesbrough's haze. Three minutes later, a thoroughly legitimate second goal came via the exceptional passing ability of the Romanian, Petrescu. His arrival after two strangely wasted seasons at Sheffield Wednesday has coincided with his opening up of skills seem to the full in the Romania national team and his pass to Spencer was followed by fine control

Parma have maintained that the transfer was agreed, and are now considering whether to seek arbitration from Fifa, football's world governing body. 'We will decide that in the next few days,' Pedraneschi said. 'If we do do that, it will be above all to protect ourselves, and so that everyone knows that the contract is valid and the player is healthy.' Asprilla watched Parma's win yesterday, which took them to second place in Serie A. 'I am still tempted by Newcastle's offer, but seeing how things have gone, I'm happy to stay with Parma,' he said. The Football Association of Ireland is expected to announce today that Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, will be the new manager in succession to Jack Charlton.

on the thigh by the little Scot and then a merciless right-foot shot across Walsh. Seven minutes later, Gullit was pulling the strings again. He exchanged a one-two with Spencer, both of them moving off the ball with intuitive expectation, and then the Dutchman, with the goal seemingly at his mercy, selflessly turned inside instead, saw Peacock and presented his colleague with his second goal of the afternoon.

Peacock was to complete his hat-trick, the first he has scored in the Premiership, after Spencer's wonderful lob in the 55th minute, but before then, the 21,060-strong Chelsea crowd saw something they had given up hope of seeing on their own turf — a goal from Furlong. Even he, apparently a bad buy by Hoddle at over £2 million, is learning the art of refinement. Gullit, inevitably, began the move, striking the ball 40, maybe 50 yards to Petrescu. The Romanian looked for Furlong, found him and then the big centre forward gathered the ball with his left foot, held off Liddle with body strength and finished the goal with his right foot.

Some people became heated by a little spat on the touchline involving Mike Kelly, the Middlesbrough goalkeeping coach, Hudson and Osgood, but why did they bother? We had watched a master class in action, we had seen before our very eyes that a foreigner like Gullit (if there are any more) can inspire and instil British players to use the ball mesmerically, inventively, accurately. Confidence, says Hoddle, is the key. CHELSEA (4-4-2): K. Hitchcock — F. Sinclair (sub: E. Johnston, B. Ryan), D. Lee, S. Clarke — D. Petrescu, E. Newman, R. Gullit, T. Phelan — J. Spencer (sub: J. Moore), G. Peacock — P. Furlong. MIDDLESBROUGH (5-5-1): K. Walsh — N. Cox, N. Pearson, S. Vickers, C. Liddle, C. Morris — C. Higgins, K. O'Halloran, C. Blackburne — N. Barry — J. A. Forth (sub: P. Wilkinson, 60). Referee: K. Cooper (Preston)

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France flop at Murrayfield as underdogs have their day to head championship table

Scotland's bravado reaps rich reward

Scotland 19
France 14

By MARK SOUSTER

SCOTLAND will head for Cardiff in a fortnight's time the only unbeaten team in the five nations' championship.



CHAMPIONSHIP

winners over a pedestrian French side, one clearly shaken by the vibrancy of Scotland's performance.

The performance was not flawless - there are still question marks about Michael Dods's reliability as a kicker.



Dods celebrates his try at Murrayfield yesterday even as he falls to the ground

ing thing is we put into practice what we try on the training ground and credit must go to Richie Dixon and David Johnston, the coaches, for all the hard work they put in.

At the heart of it all was another inspiring display by the Scottish pack, which, while half a stone lighter per man than their opponents, was light years ahead in speed of thought and movement.

The French front row was anonymous, Merle and Roumat lumbering and the back row, even Benazzi, obliterated.

That score was no more than Scotland deserved after a blistering start that rocked the French on their heels and epitomised the Scots' spirit of adventure.



Shepherd sways away from Benazzi's tackle and prepares to test Carbonneau as Scotland go on the offensive against France on Saturday. Photograph: Martin Cleaver

back had again been involved in the move with a marvellous flipped pass behind his back.

Scotland were often electric, yet again Townsend, with wonderful half-jinks that constantly kept France guessing.

The lack of a killer instinct is Scotland's Achilles' heel, but while that will come with experience, it meant on this occasion that, instead of turning round with a commanding lead, the advantage was only three points after Castaignède had kicked a penalty and Benazzi had twisted over from

a lineout and maul. Dods replied, with two penalty goals in four minutes, but he was otherwise wayward with his kicking, succeeding with only three out of nine attempts in the match.

With the scoreline so close, France tried to up the tempo but were stopped in their tracks 12 minutes into the second half. Scotland ran a penalty on the 22 and a huge floated pass by Redpath reached Dods in the clear.

SCOTLAND: RJS Shepherd (Melrose); C A John (Melrose); S Hastings (Melrose); I G Jardine (Glasgow County); M Dods (Northampton); G P J Townsend (Northampton); B W Redpath (Melrose); D W Hilton (Bath); K D McKenzie (Strathclyde); P H Wright (Boroughmuir); R I Wainwright (Walsingham, captain); S J Campbell (Furzeau HSFP); G W Ikin (Newcastle); I R Smith (Gloucester); E W Peters (Bath)

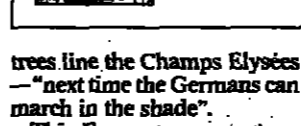
Wainwright accepts surrender recalling shades of Waterloo

Wellington was not joking when he made his crack about the playing fields of Eton. "If you want to interest a Frenchman in a game," it has been said, "tell him it's war."

France tried to up the tempo but were stopped in their tracks 12 minutes into the second half. Scotland ran a penalty on the 22 and a huge floated pass by Redpath reached Dods in the clear.

France tried to up the tempo but were stopped in their tracks 12 minutes into the second half. Scotland ran a penalty on the 22 and a huge floated pass by Redpath reached Dods in the clear.

MICHAEL HENDERSON At Murrayfield



Scots. Wainwright has one of those refined speaking voices that send Scots from the west of the country running for cover.

heroes." Nowhere more than at full back, where Rowen Shepherd, of Melrose, came of age, and on the wing, where Michael Dods claimed both tries, the second after a bit of a juggle, and all 19 points.

Scotland's ability to replenish their stock of players from within a small pool is little short of astonishing.

Wainwright confessed to nerves before the game, which may account for the blistering way his team began it.

Hammond fades at testing time

ROGER HAMMOND, occupied with university examinations during January, knows he can do better - and must do - if he is again to be a world champion at cyclo-cross.

As the 21km race went into the closing stages, however, Hammond's body drained of strength and he appeared to be going backwards as riders quickly came from behind to overhaul him.

The Five Cities track league series at the National Cycling Centre ended in victory for Manchester, with a 13-point lead over London and 20 points over Edinburgh.

Kwik way for cricket to catch them young

By JOHN GOODBODY

CRICKET is not the easiest sport to introduce to youngsters. The traditional game demands time and patience and a high level of skill.

The London Schools' Cricket Project has met these difficulties head-on. Desperately keen that more youngsters should be introduced to the sport, it sent coaches to 811 primary schools between 1990 and 1995 to give concentrated instruction and supervision of Kwik cricket.

run across the tarmac to swap places with their partners. In this way, not only did they keep warm but they also got more exercise.

Vic Griffith, the coach, said: "I always try to get their attention, to get them to focus on me and, while they are in the cold, to get them to move up and down. They should have as much enjoyment and exercise as possible."



Pupils at William Davies School get in the swing of a playground Kwik cricket game



IN SCHOOLS

Gill Gordon, the head teacher, said: "They know far more about cricketers than footballers and their fathers will often play cricket with them on the park. They support England

against Australia or the West Indies, but when England are playing India or Pakistan, they sometimes do not know where they are."

She has always welcomed the Project's suggestion to send in a coach for five sessions a year. "Cricket teaches teamwork and the discipline of learning a game, with its rules and need for fairness."

The Project has a budget of about £100,000 for this year to help to pay for two full-time and ten part-time coaches to tour the London schools. This total includes £5,000 from Tesco - the supermarket chain - plus a further £5,000 from the Government's Sportsmatch scheme.

Williams ends long wait for Welsh win

By PHIL YATES

MARK WILLIAMS benefited from one of the worst performances of John Parrott's career to win the Regal Welsh Open snooker tournament in Newport on Saturday and so become the first Welshman to capture a world-ranking title for seven years.

Parrott, a warm pre-match favourite to win his second tournament of the season, after his triumph at the Thailand Classic in October, committed a string of unforced errors in the early stages and found himself trailing 5-2 after the first session.

another on the black during the afternoon, must have expected Parrott to mount a fightback on the resumption but the 1991 world and United Kingdom champion continued to struggle.

A run of 60 from Williams, the highest break of the contest, put him 7-2 ahead and Parrott's fate was effectively sealed when he missed a straightforward red after a run of 46 in the tenth frame to allow Williams in for a 52 clearance to the pink.

Williams, who collected a prize of £36,000, began the 1995-96 campaign in 39th place in the world rankings but is now twelfth on the provisional list.

RESULT: Frank M Williams (Wales) 6-5 J Parrott (Eng) 5-3. Frame scores (Williams first): 61-50, 65-4, 5-121, 65-58, 62-43, 0-75, 84-26, 46-11, 75-2, 75-46, 45-71, 72-28

Rowell's problems accumulate as stuttering victory fails to mask embarrassment at Twickenham

New England pioneers left stranded

England 21
Wales 15

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Welsh, when seeking an adjective for someone who is slow on the uptake, describe them as dull. England are playing "dull" rugby this season, both in the Welsh sense and, ultimately, in the more prosaic sense of the word.

They held the game at Twickenham on Saturday in the palm of their hand and they let it go through a stubborn inflexibility for which they will pay dearly if it is reproduced against Scotland next month. Perhaps it is as well that England have a break from the five nations' championship now; they need to take a long, hard look at how, and with whom, they are playing the game.

The only part of England's game that functioned to any degree in the Save and Prosper international was the midfield, where Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott carved out the sort of openings rarely seen in international rugby. For a year now the scrum has not been the force England claim it to be and the lineout was



FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

even more of a disaster than in Paris last month.

For that the Welsh deserve credit and no one more than Gareth Llewellyn, who instructed himself in front of England's jumpers and contributed substantially to Wales's 16-7 lineout dominance. Elsewhere, the sense of adventure that earned Henri Taylor his try must be set against the indiscipline that littered the Welsh game and, quite justifiably, incurred the wrath of the referee, Ken McCartney.

They were penalised 21 times in England's nine, sometimes for the kind of "professional" fouls that, by and large, rugby has escaped: when Guscott creates an opening and looks for support, only to find Mike Catt physically restrained by Leigh Davies; it is time for referees to ponder the route taken by Tony Spreadbury when he awarded that controversial penalty try in the University match in December.

Yet Wales, for whom Robert Howley played so well on his debut, contrived a pattern of sorts whereas England were knocked sadly out of kilter. Jack Rowell, the manager, will have been embarrassed to have been caught by the microphone in the players' tunnel muttering that he could not believe what he was seeing as the game neared what might be inaccurately described as its climax, but he could be excused.

There is no doubt that the England manager has a problem. The inability to translate apparently good training hab-



Guscott, left, with de Gianville, Regan, and Grayson trying to provide support, is hauled back by Nigel Davies, the Wales centre

its to the field of play is a cogent argument - his management skills or those of his executives - captain pack-leader, senior players. Criticism of the clubs can only be taken so far, since the absence of an identifiable English style has been overcome in the past.

At present, England are not rucking like Bath or mauling like Leicester; they are not playing fast and loose like Wasps or Sale. They are an amorphous mass relieved only by the odd flash of inspiration by the centres and the faithful support of Lawrence Dallaglio. They must rediscover some focus; but there is little sign of the incumbents providing it. For Ben Clarke to claim that England are "close to brewing up a storm" is faintly ludicrous.

They are incapable of sustaining any degree of momentum. The one place of genuine continuity that led to Rory Underwood's try - his fifteenth in international rugby - stuttered before Jon Sleighthorpe bowled out a pass that bounced fortuitously for Catt

and all Underwood had to do was run over in the corner. Otherwise they are prey to the curse of the northern-hemisphere game - ball killed on the ground. Players, from both sides, are not permitted to ruck properly. John Humphreys, the Wales captain, said: "If you are going to lie on the wrong side of the ball you know exactly what to expect and you have to roll away. Spectators come to see running rugby and if people are going to kill the ball, they are stopping the entertainment we can give."

One wonders, though, if England recognise quick ball. So much is held in the back row of a scrum, which is not dominant, that their backs are left with nowhere to go. The direct channel would give Matthew Dawson some opportunities and would, at the very least, leave the decision-making in the hands of the half backs rather than with the back row, whose vision is necessarily more limited.

England must hope that Paul Grayson has had his one bad match of the season. He

Table with columns: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Rows for Scotland, England, France, Ireland, Wales.

RESULTS: France 16 England 12, Ireland 10 Scotland 16, England 21 Wales 15, Scotland 19 France 14.
FIXTURES: Feb 17: France v Ireland; Wales v Scotland; Mar 2: Ireland v Wales; Scotland v England; Mar 16: England v Ireland; Wales v France

missed four first-half penalties and sliced his punts so wretchedly that he could count himself fortunate that Justin Thomas, the Wales full back, was equally poor in his catching and kicking.

Wales, recognising the need to keep the ball as far away from the England pack as possible, attempted little off the back row yet Taylor was one of the most influential players on the field. All their kicking was away from the opposing forwards, including the kick-off, and Arwel Thomas provided the game's magical moment when he tapped a kickable penalty, looked to a void on his right and then

turned left for Gwyn Jones, Wayne Proctor and Leigh Davies to send Taylor over.

Underwood's try gave England their 7-5 interval advantage, and when Justin Thomas was casual about his clearance, Guscott charged the kick down and ran to score. With Grayson finding his range at last and the England forwards beginning to rumble, England should have seized the game; instead Carling left with a recurrence of a knee injury and their aspirations dwindled.

At 21-8 they should have buried Wales. Instead an appalling drop-out by Grayson left Wales with a midfield scrum and the chance of a try, taken with alacrity by Howley through a gap in the English wall. "We have got a Welsh team playing not just for each other but for the Welsh nation and if they get behind us we can take anyone on at home," Kevin Bowring, their coach, said. Even Scotland?

SCORES: England: 15; Wales: 15; France: 16; Ireland: 10; Scotland: 19. Referee: A. Thomas. Penalty goals: Grayson (3), Wales: Trier, Taylor, Howley. Conversion: A. Thomas. Points: 15-15.

Burden lightens as Welsh flair shows the way

GERALD DAVIES
At Twickenham

When the dust has settled and those passions upon which this fixture depends so much have dimmed, this match will be remembered simply for England's win but also, sadly, the overwhelming banality of the way it was achieved. As so often in this fixture there was the brief memorable shaft of brilliance, this time by Wales that produced their first try and was inspired by Arwel Thomas's audacity in ignoring an opportunity to kick a penalty and running with the ball instead. But generally it was of a low standard.

England, despite their fine words in public, should take no comfort from the outcome. There were signs in the running of Guscott and, particularly, Carling of the kind of rugby they say they aspire to. But more indicative of their thinking and the inhibiting caution that almost suffocates them, is their negative approach to the scrum.

Time and again the ball was held and held and held once more until the scrum swivelled and asked to be reformed. The ball remained at the feet of the No 8 and held to the vast Twickenham chorus of "heave". This tedious and, as it turned out, fruitless tactic was pursued relentlessly whether close to the Welsh line or some considerable distance away, and hardly mattered whether Wales or England were in the lead and the scrum included eight Welshmen or fewer.

The tactic remained. With a 15-5 lead and Wales very much on the ropes in the middle period of the second half, England's purpose remained of the defensive kind. There was little desire to attempt much more.

Unquestionably, they have a problem and Jack Rowell, their manager, knows exactly what it is. "It is not a matter of training harder," he said afterwards, "but of thinking smarter."

It is a difficult problem to overcome because if this is to be so, one will have to begin considering the constitution of the back row. All three are powerful and are comfortable

ball-carriers - but they are either unwilling or unable to part with the ball. They are reluctant distributors. Their aim in life is to go to ground. All this was at a time when the centres had the chance of enjoying the kind of freedom in midfield which hitherto has been foreign to them.

England seemed governed by fear. They are victims of their own success. The difference lying between being motivated by defending that reputation instead of attempting to promote it further.

If anything, Wales, despite their defeat and lack of consistency, may well draw a greater comfort than their opponents. There is a way forward for them and they are not so set in their ways. "This was a start of something," Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, said, "not an end."

They were like terriers snapping at the heels of a tired old warhorse. Things did go wrong for Wales, more so than Bowring would have wished, but at least they were willing to test and to learn.

Both players at half back were relaxed and at their confident ease. The other youngsters did well enough, too. Justin Thomas, for his part, however, will have learnt in his match-losing misjudgment, that led to Guscott's try, that to create the time and space in club matches is not quite what it is in the international arena where players are swifter and more clever. If it was not an auspicious time for him, the feeling remains that there is a match-winning game in him.

If Bowring found the unpredictability of these youngsters "heart-stopping" then it must be something he will soon learn to live with. It is the kind of rugby that all Wales wants to see. It is something that he does not want to hinder or shatter.

Each coach envies what the other possesses. Bowring might wish for England's power and ability to maintain possession, whereas Rowell must yearn for the hints that Wales gave of a willingness to avoid the predictable and repetitive.

Forward weaknesses must be resolved

I am beginning to understand the frustration of the supporter in the stand watching England. Like many others I was really excited about the prospect of the game with Wales, after England had shown so much character in a narrow defeat in France last month.

I believed that Tim Rodber would return rearing at the indignity of being "dropped", determined to make sure it would not happen again, and that England would produce an explosive opening 20 minutes to put Wales in their place. At the same time it was an opportunity to get the crowd, critical of some of the decisions taken against Western Samoa in the previous home match, back on their side.

It did not happen and, in the closing minutes, England were in the position of having to scrap it out just to make sure of victory. They cannot pretend it will get easier. Murraysfield in a month, against a Scottish team which could be playing for a grand slam, will be no place for airy-fairy rugby.

This is the dilemma of trying to take the game forward amid the cauldron of the five nations' championship and it is where I take issue with those from the southern hemisphere who say that England should have a go and be prepared to lose a few games.

Rob Andrew argues that recalling Dean Richards would lift England morale and give Will Carling valuable support

in his belly on Saturday, needs support in the leadership stakes. The forwards have not played well this season and there is a strong case for bringing Dean Richards back to lift the morale of the pack. In the past the forwards were always able to turn to him and Brian Moore for physical and

mental resolve, and Richards is still available, in an area where I remain to be convinced that the balance is right anyway. Indeed, England's back row has not yet found a credible successor to Peter Winterbottom, who retired more than two years ago. The lineout, always an English

strength, has been poor for successive matches and that has deprived England of a crucial platform from which to build a game. That is another issue to be resolved in selection. Your hooker may be industry itself about the field but his primary job is at the lineout and if England are not functioning on their own throw-in, they have to establish why.

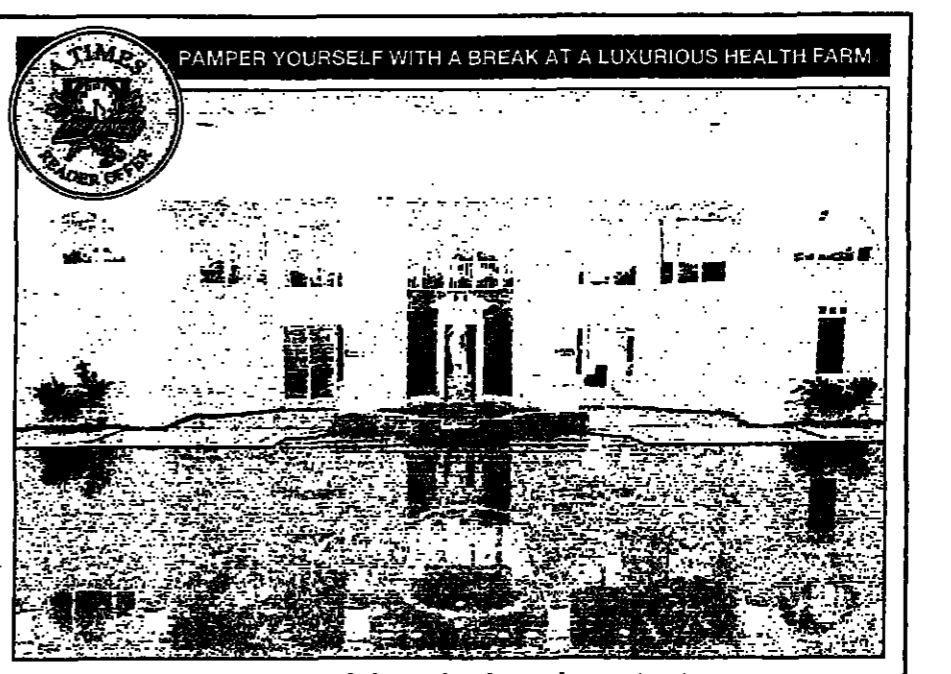
But on Saturday, England's game crumbled for technical reasons. Paul Grayson, normally such a fluent striker of the ball off the ground and out of hand, was badly out of sorts. He had played so well in Paris and it may be that at Twickenham the pressure (horrid word) affected him. But when you miss kicks to give your team the advantage, and the opposition rub it in by scoring a great try, then it does affect team morale.

If you miss touch it makes it worse, particularly from penalties. That should be gilt-edged possession deep in opposition territory and three times England could not find touch from penalty awards. No matter how you try to paper over the cracks, as Carling understandably tried to do, they were clearly visible and were emphasised by the poor tactical kicking which lacked purpose or plan.

Even so England fought their way back into the game and the turning point should have arrived when Jerry Guscott scored his try. It was a fortunate one but imagine how dispiriting it must have been for Wales. England should have been able to press home their advantage, but when Carling went off, they shut up shop... and nearly threw it away.



Grayson is off target with another penalty kick. The England stand-off had a wayward afternoon, missing five of his nine kicks at goal



Luxury dip: the new indoor swimming pool at Henlow Grange

Get into shape

Spend a three-night break at one of two of Britain's leading health resorts and, as a Times reader, save up to £80.

Choose either Forest Mere, set in 150 acres of tranquil woodlands in the heart of Hampshire or Henlow Grange, Bedfordshire, the largest health resort in Britain with a 25m indoor swimming pool. Both combine comfortable and elegant surroundings with the opportunity to sample a wide range of fitness, beauty and relaxation treatments supervised by professional therapists and instructors.

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relaxation classes each day. These include step workouts, aerobics, yoga and body alignment. Many other fitness tuition and beauty treatments are available.

The price for a three-night break at Henlow Grange is £239.95, reduced from £299.95, based on two people sharing (single supplement £30). At Forest Mere the cost is from £235, reduced from £285 (single supplement £60). There is a Saturday night supplement of £25.95 per person and all rooms have private facilities and colour television with Sky.

The offer is available until the end of March, 1996, subject to availability.

TO BOOK To book, or for further details, contact: Henlow Grange, Henlow, Beds SG16 6DB, telephone 01462 81111 or Forest Mere, Liphook, Hampshire, GU30 7JQ, telephone 01428 722051. When booking, please quote The Times.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table with football results for FA Carling Premiership, including teams like Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United, and their respective scores.

Table with football results for FA Carling Premiership, including teams like Tottenham, Blackburn, and their respective scores.

Most seasons throw up a surprise package in the shape of an improving midfielder... Ferdinand: 100th League goal



Table showing league table for FA Carling Premiership with columns for P, W, D, L, F, A, W, D, L, F, A, Goal.

FA CUP NEWS

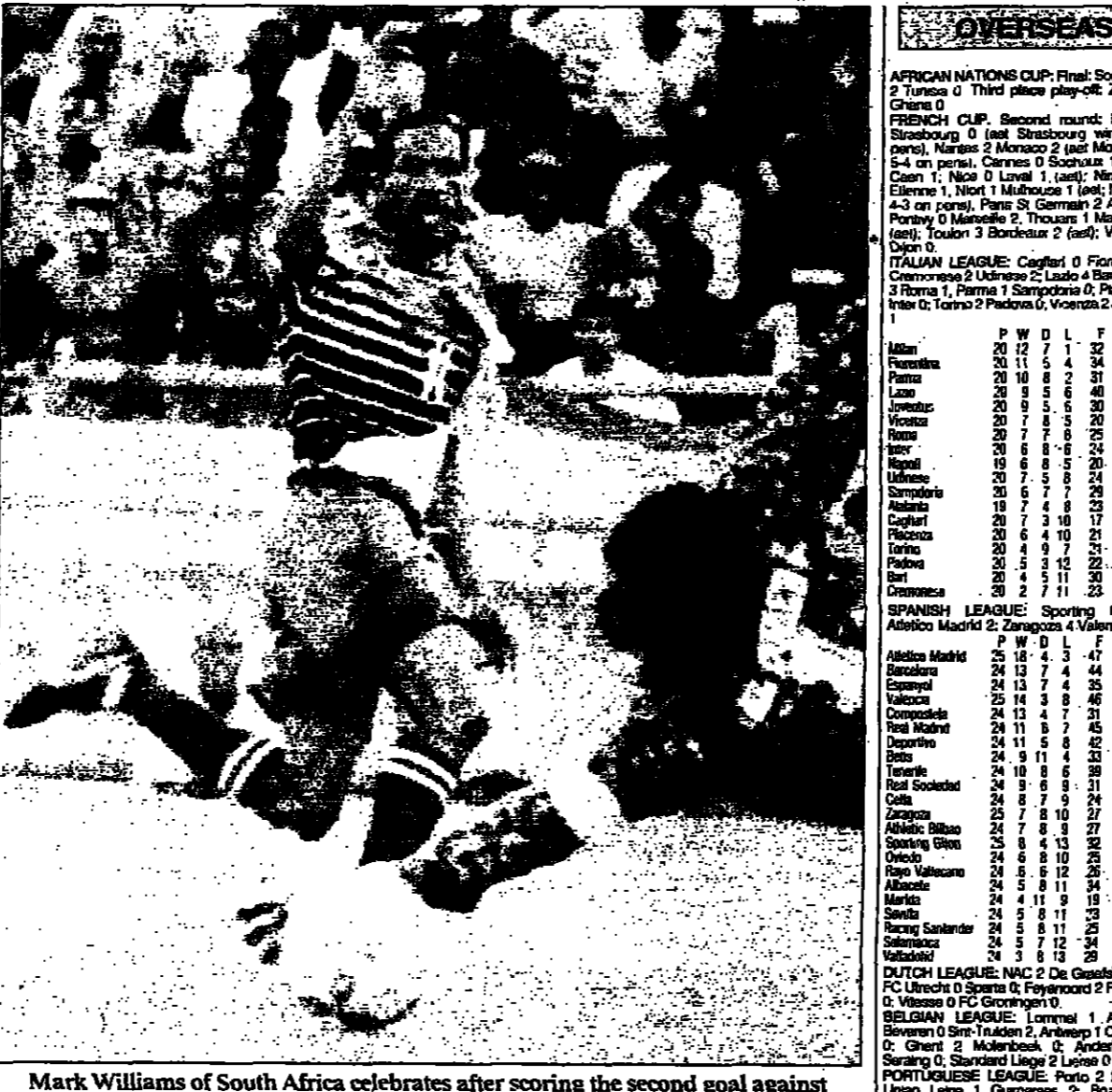
JOHN McGinlay, the Scottish international forward, may miss Bolton Wanderers' arranged FA Cup fourth round tie at home to Leeds United...

Endsleigh Insurance League

Table showing football results for Endsleigh Insurance League, including teams like Barrow, Grimsby, and their scores.

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Table showing football results for Bell's League Championship, including teams like Celtic, Falkirk, and their scores.



Mark Williams of South Africa celebrates after scoring the second goal against Tunisia in the African Nations Cup final in Johannesburg on Saturday

OVERSEAS

Table showing football results from overseas leagues, including African Nations Cup, Spanish League, and others.

PREMIER DIVISION

Table showing football results for Premier Division, including teams like Arsenal, Liverpool, and their scores.

SECOND DIVISION

Table showing football results for Second Division, including teams like Blackburn, Bolton, and their scores.

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

Table showing football results for non-league and national leagues, including various regional leagues.

THIRD DIVISION

Table showing football results for Third Division, including teams like Barnsley, Bradford, and their scores.

CONFERENCE

Table showing football results for Conference, including teams like Aldershot, Barnet, and their scores.

GOALSCORERS

Table listing goal scorers for various leagues, including names and the number of goals scored.

BEAZER HOMES

Table showing football results for Beazer Homes, including teams like Barnet, Brentford, and their scores.

GOALSCORERS

Table listing goal scorers for various leagues, including names and the number of goals scored.

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Endsleigh Insurance League

Table showing football results for Endsleigh Insurance League, including teams like Derby, Charlton, and their scores.

FIRST DIVISION

Table showing football results for First Division, including teams like Swindon, Carlisle, and their scores.

SECOND DIVISION

Table showing football results for Second Division, including teams like Gillingham, Darlington, and their scores.

THIRD DIVISION

Table showing football results for Third Division, including teams like Gillingham, Darlington, and their scores.

PREMIER DIVISION

Table showing football results for Premier Division, including teams like Rangers, Hearts, and their scores.

FIRST DIVISION

Table showing football results for First Division, including teams like Dundee, Dundee United, and their scores.

SECOND DIVISION

Table showing football results for Second Division, including teams like East Fife, Brechin, and their scores.

THIRD DIVISION

Table showing football results for Third Division, including teams like Brechin, East Fife, and their scores.

POOLS CHECK

Table showing football results for Pools Check, including teams like Celtic, Rangers, and their scores.

FORECAST: No claim required the forecast forecast is made on the basis of 11 score draws and 6 no-score draws.

Guilt is first hazard on round-the-world voyage

By James Capstick

SURVIVAL as a round-the-world amateur yachtsman will require me to face up to and acknowledge the dangers of what I am about to do, even the naivety of my original decision, but then forget all that and get on with it.

thanks mainly to my long-suffering wife, Tracey, who actually understands me — a rare and sometimes dangerous thing that, a woman who understands a man, understands a man.

WHEN Chay Blyth announced the BT Global Challenge two years ago, he had 6,000 applicants for 165 places on the 1996 fleet, each of which cost the successful entrants £18,750.

THE BT Global Challenge THE TIMES prevailing winds and currents. Anyone aged between 21 and 60 was eligible. From 2,687 entrants, 12 were selected for a training weekend to decide who should fill the

berths. James Capstick, a 37-year-old Surrey police officer, and Lucy Duncan, a 35-year-old Nottingham midwife, were chosen. The race starts from Southampton in September, when the fleet of 67-foot yachts under the guidance of professional skippers, sets sail for Rio de Janeiro at the start of a 30,000-mile adventure, which will take the crews round Cape Horn and across the dangerous Southern Ocean. The finish is at Southampton in June 1997.



Capstick: epic journey

The easiest to spot are the potential foredeck gorillas — they tend to have a glassy, faraway look in their eyes and are often accompanied by "helpers" in a long, white coat. Necessary sailing skills can be taught; Challenge Business (the organisers of the race) have proved that beyond doubt, but it is something else to change a personality and, on our trip, you cannot run or hide. You pray you will not let yourself, or more importantly, anyone else down.

year, he can. However, my wife did question my unflappable confidence in him when late that night, after the crew announcements, she turned out to pick Paul and myself up from a railway station somewhere in darkest Surrey, as a result of a navigational error between Earls Court and Waterloo station! What next? Sitting here, attempting to write my first piece for The Times, I am suddenly reminded of a past feeling of trepidation. As a young police constable sitting in a Crown Court waiting room to give evidence for the first time, I remember being wound up by the old sweats who had done it all before. It would send a shiver down my spine as they solemnly explained how "your every word will be put under the microscope and examined, son".

At last, the moment of truth arrived as Chay Blyth and the overhead projection told us our teams and that I was to crew on Ocean Rover. I have only sailed with one or two of my new crew before and while enjoying a small glass of wine and a chicken leg at a local

searching the horizon for the "brains" who will navigate us around the world, obviously avoiding the Doldrums and the rough bits, or repair the engine with nothing more than an old washing-up bottle, some sticky-back plastic and the tongue out of a deck shoe.

Undeclared 'one-punch wonder' from Liverpool has look of a champion Powerhouse Neary makes his mark

By Srikanth Sen Boxing Correspondent

BOXING may have found a new Colin Jones. Since the Welshman, who twice came close to lifting the world title retired some ten years ago, the sport has been waiting for a puncher from the lower divisions who can take out an opponent with one blow. Shea Neary, a little-known light-welterweight from Liverpool, could be just such a man.

Neary traps Southerland on the ropes before unleashing another powerful attack on the American in their light-welterweight bout

reality exciting fighter, like a white Nigel Benn. We picked Southerland. Promoters have always discussed opponents with me, but this time I told Hyland: "if you are prepared to let us find the opponent, we'll put him on".

experience. Neary is still a little raw. But he has a Tyson-like search-and-destroy determination and if he can adopt the Tyson head movements, he could become a good world-title prospect.

hope. Matthew Ellis looks destined to have as colourful and exciting a career as Billy Walker, some 30 years ago — but he could prove more successful. On the undercard, he knocked out Laurent Rouze, of France, in one round. Rouze was not much of an opponent, but this was only the first professional appearance of the Amateur Boxing Association heavyweight champion. Nonetheless, it was



Why lowering levels may provide recipe for disaster

Brian Clarke says anglers are right to be apprehensive about the actions of water companies

Anglers have watched with dismay as the list of abstraction applications has lengthened this winter. Among the most highly publicised have been those by Yorkshire Water to take more from the rivers Wharfe and Ure and by North West Water to take more from Windermer and Ullswater, thus lowering the levels of these lakes by several feet.

water levels in some woods. As flows fall beyond the point which these weeds need to thrive, so the weeds die and the habitat of dependent creatures is lost. The deadly downward spiral steepens.

He is very strong, Southerland said. "No one has hit me so hard. I boxed well at the outset but got careless and he was able to capitalise on where I messed up. That's a good fighter. He stacks up well against the fighters I have met."

There is little doubt that the "Shamrock Express" is on course to lift the British and European titles. His manager, John Hyland, believes there is not a light-welterweight in Britain to stop him.

Neary replied: "I'll stop it from him. You have seen something special. When he wants to take a man out he takes them out. He'll make a hole in those London guys."

Having turned professional at 23 after leaving the Army and without much amateur

possible to see that the 1st 10lb six-footer from Blackpool is, unlike so many other British heavyweights, light on his feet and has quick hands. Most important, he is able to put combinations together.

They legal arm, the Anglers' Conservation Association, has pursued hundreds of offending organisations through the courts and carried many a fight to the High Court, to make the point. Those who fish, perhaps above all, know that when a river sickens or dies, it is a terrible thing.

Runcorn buried by latest Hayles storm

RUNCORN must be heartily sick of the sight of Barry Hayles of Stevenage Borough. He scored three times against them in November when Stevenage won 8-0 at Canal Street and precipitated the departure of John Carroll from the Runcorn management. On Saturday, he crashed in another hat-trick against Runcorn as Stevenage won the return match at Broadhall Way 4-1.

Desire makes crucial difference

Mark Williams, a player struggling to make any impression with Wolverhampton Wanderers, shared Saturday in. Soweto with Nelson Mandela, whose mark in history is indelible. Williams, purchased by Graham Taylor as a £300,000 Wolves reserve, came off the substitutes' bench to score twice in two minutes so that South Africa could break the obscurity of Tunisia and add the African Nations Cup to the rugby and cricket triumphs in the new South Africa's list of sporting achievements. Those, President Mandela believes, symbolise more than anything else the quest for unity after apartheid.

Rob Hughes watches South Africa add another trophy to burgeoning collection

Lee Hughes scored the day's second hat-trick as Kidderminster Harriers beat Dagenham and Redbridge 5-1. Telford United's 2-1 win at Slough left Dagenham isolated at the foot of the table. Canvey Island, of the Ics League, reached the quarter-finals of the FA Carlsberg Vase by coming from behind to beat Thamesmead 2-1 with an 89th-minute goal by Gary Britnell in a fifth-round match played at Slade Green's ground, the Small Glen, yesterday.

Rob Hughes watches South Africa add another trophy to burgeoning collection

Mandela was like a child lifted from his seat. Indeed Winnie Mandela — for once under the same roof as her estranged husband — was also in a celebratory dance, though there was no coming together as a pair, and not likely to be a reconciliation given the connotation that



As Mandela stepped down to the field, flanked by F W de Klerk and by the Zulu King, Goodwill Zwelithini, there were reverberations of the message that sport is unity in a nation which once divided sport on colour lines. Nell Tovey, the white captain whose replica shirt was worn by the black president, offered the trophy to Mandela. Mandela kissed it briefly, touched it, and then like the grandfather he is urged Tovey and "The Boys" to take their place in the sunshine of South African celebration. They had to dance their way through the security cordon, the reality that the country still faces a difficult transition, but as their high spirits lapped the stadium, one knew that we could never separate sport from politics, nor regard playing games as a frivolous activity.

Less water not only equals less food, but less space. All trout need food and cover and, like the wild animals on the bank above, they will fight to get what they need. The fry that have survived the perils of the spawning beds begin to compete among themselves for space and the weakest are driven away to places in which they cannot support themselves. Still more loss.

And so it continues and steadily gets worse. The arguments rage over who or what is to blame. The casual camera points at the surface, but cannot see through it. And yet anglers see it in close-up and understand. It is no wonder they are filled with apprehension, no wonder they watch and fight and sue as they do. It is a terrible thing when a river sickens or dies.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Birmingham 100, Manchester 98, London 100, Newcastle 95, Reading 100, Southampton 95, Sheffield 100, Tottenham 100, Watford 100, West Ham 100, Wimbledon 100.

BOWLS

COUNTY ANTHRO: Wiltshire 100, Wiltshire 100, Wiltshire 100, Wiltshire 100, Wiltshire 100, Wiltshire 100, Wiltshire 100, Wiltshire 100.

BOXING

INGLEWOOD: California World Boxing Council, California World Boxing Council, California World Boxing Council, California World Boxing Council, California World Boxing Council.

CRICKET

One-day international: New Zealand v Zimbabwe, New Zealand 100, Zimbabwe 95, New Zealand 100, Zimbabwe 95.

GOLF

PERTH: Hellenic Classic Tournament, Perth 100, Perth 100, Perth 100, Perth 100, Perth 100, Perth 100, Perth 100, Perth 100.

GYMNASTICS

HINCKLEY: The British Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships, Hinckley 100, Hinckley 100, Hinckley 100, Hinckley 100, Hinckley 100, Hinckley 100.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division, National League 100, National League 100, National League 100, National League 100, National League 100.

LACROSSE

SHERPDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY: Premier Division, Sherpds 100, Sherpds 100, Sherpds 100, Sherpds 100, Sherpds 100.

RACKET

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacrosse British Open, Queen's Club 100, Queen's Club 100, Queen's Club 100, Queen's Club 100, Queen's Club 100.

REAL TENNIS

BARBURY INTERNATIONAL: Barbury 100, Barbury 100, Barbury 100, Barbury 100, Barbury 100.

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: Fullerton Trophy, Fullerton 100, Fullerton 100, Fullerton 100, Fullerton 100, Fullerton 100.

RUGBY LEAGUE

BRADFORD: Bradford 100, Bradford 100, Bradford 100, Bradford 100, Bradford 100.

REAL TENNIS

HAMPTON COURT: British Land National Mixed Doubles, Hampton Court 100, Hampton Court 100, Hampton Court 100, Hampton Court 100.

SMOOKER

WEMBLEY CONFERENCE: Wembley 100, Wembley 100, Wembley 100, Wembley 100, Wembley 100.

SWIMMING

CARDIFF: British Grand Prix, Cardiff 100, Cardiff 100, Cardiff 100, Cardiff 100, Cardiff 100.

TENNIS

SHANGHAI: Chinese Open, Shanghai 100, Shanghai 100, Shanghai 100, Shanghai 100, Shanghai 100.

WINTER SPORT

BIATHLON: Ruhpolding, Ruhpolding 100, Ruhpolding 100, Ruhpolding 100, Ruhpolding 100, Ruhpolding 100.

CRESTA RUN

MORGAN CLIP: Morgan 100, Morgan 100, Morgan 100, Morgan 100, Morgan 100.

NORDIC SKIING

SEefeld: Seefeld 100, Seefeld 100, Seefeld 100, Seefeld 100, Seefeld 100.

CURLING

PERTH: Famous Grouse Open, Perth 100, Perth 100, Perth 100, Perth 100, Perth 100.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: British League 100, British League 100, British League 100, British League 100, British League 100.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL)

FLORIDA: Florida 100, Florida 100, Florida 100, Florida 100, Florida 100.

SPED SKATING

INZELL: Inzell 100, Inzell 100, Inzell 100, Inzell 100, Inzell 100.

SKIING

VAL D'ISERE: Val d'Isere 100, Val d'Isere 100, Val d'Isere 100, Val d'Isere 100, Val d'Isere 100.

WRESTLING

EMMA MITCHELL: Emma Mitchell 100, Emma Mitchell 100, Emma Mitchell 100, Emma Mitchell 100, Emma Mitchell 100.

RUGBY UNION

EMMA MITCHELL: Emma Mitchell 100, Emma Mitchell 100, Emma Mitchell 100, Emma Mitchell 100, Emma Mitchell 100.

TENNIS

WOMEN'S HOME NATIONS: Women's Home Nations 100, Women's Home Nations 100, Women's Home Nations 100, Women's Home Nations 100.

WEEK AHEAD

TODAY: Today 100, Today 100, Today 100, Today 100, Today 100.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL: Football 100, Football 100, Football 100, Football 100, Football 100.

OTHER SPORT

SKIRMISHING: Skirmishing 100, Skirmishing 100, Skirmishing 100, Skirmishing 100, Skirmishing 100.

RACING

Call 0891 500 123, Call 0891 500 123, Call 0891 500 123, Call 0891 500 123, Call 0891 500 123.

FOOTBALL

Reports and scores from the English League, Reports and scores from the English League, Reports and scores from the English League.

Jennai Cox walked Dartmoor with 60 women competing for places in the first all-female relay across the Arctic



One foot in front of the other: the rain poured, the wind thrashed and the fog got thicker every minute of the 12-hour walk — just the right weather to test the resilience of anyone who believed they could walk across the Arctic

Keen to conquer the North Pole

I was six hours since I had last had any feeling in my feet, freezing rain had gone through several layers of clothes and my fourth pair of gloves was drenched. My body shook as the early stage of hypothermia set in; even my bones felt cold. All 60 women on the dark and windswept moor were told that there were still another 5 kilometres to go.

The reward for surviving this 40 km SAS-style yomp across Dartmoor was one of 16 places in the first all-female relay to the North Pole. Pen Hadow, the organiser of the expedition, must have prayed hard for the weather. It was just right to test the resilience of those confident of withstanding temperatures of minus 40C; the rain poured, the wind thrashed and the fog thickened during each minute of the 12-hour yomp.

Among us was Caroline Hamilton, the 32-year-old film financier whose dream of walking in the Arctic sparked the desire in 60 others. Having climbed in the Himalayas, the Dolomites and the Andes, the North Pole — previously reached by only two women — is the next challenge. She

approached the Polar Travel Company, specialists in Arctic expeditions. But she had only £1,500 and three weeks' leave in which to do the journey. The company suggested a relay and organised this trial. They would have to pay a similar amount or find a sponsor.

Walking on breaking sea ice, the possibility of a polar bear attack and persistent and extremely cold temperatures are promised for the lucky 16 who qualify for the 55-day 1,000km Arctic relay planned for March, 1997.

The women, aged from 17 to 60, were woken at 5.30am to prepare for the hike after a night on hay bales in a barn. Mr Hadow, director of the Polar Travel Company, told us to line rucksacks with binbags and hiking boots with cling-film. Two hours later, in darkness and rain, the trek across the treacherous tors and bogs of Dartmoor began.

Most of us were dressed in waterproofs and hardy boots, but few had attempted a 40km hike across uneven, marshy, muddy ground in driving rain and relentless wind. Hardly anyone would return to the base at Wydean, Hexworthy in Devon that night without



having wrung out socks and gloves at least twice.

The first leg of the expedition up Ryder's Hill, the highest point on southern Dartmoor, was jolly and rain-free. One asthma sufferer dropped out after the first mile but the rest of us climbed and warmed up happily, police-woman talking to potter and model to mental health worker, the wind carrying our laughter downhill. For many, there is no better way to spend annual leave. The moor's steep ground, knee-deep puddles and river crossings fazed no one. Some of us, at first, felt little challenged. The North Pole would be a cinch. Coming down Ryder's Hill

and heading southwest for Shipley Bridge the rain began. The odd complaint about blisters and old injuries was heard and, here and there, smiles began to droop. Before much longer, and only 5 halfway through the journey, most feet were swimming in freezing, water-filled boots and chat was gradually replaced by near-silence. By lunchtime the rain had hardened and a dense fog meant a view of less than 30 metres.

Still looking fresh and bright-eyed, Mr Hadow gathered us round: "From now on the expedition really gets much harder," he said. "You will get increasingly tired, the weather might close in and the ground gets more uneven. If anyone wants to drop out say so — this is your last chance."

With clothes wet through to the skin and hands too cold to open the rucksack for food, the temptation was almost too much. All but a couple of the women — one with breathing difficulties, another with sore feet — decided to march on. But the high spirits of the first few kilometres never returned.

The ground became steadily soggy and we no longer bothered to jump streams or avoid puddles. By 5 o'clock and heading northwest for Nun's Cross, two thirds of the journey was over. Keeping to the front of the group helped to sustain the illusion of getting back to base quicker, but having to pause every 200 metres for headcounts, and to allow tired stragglers to catch up, also gave the cold a better chance to take hold.

I got through the last few hours only by shining my torch on the feet of the person ahead and hoping that my vision of hauling out survival kits (a plastic sleeping bag and a whistle) for a night on the moors would not be realised. The biting wind would have made many wonder if they could tolerate temperatures up to 50C lower for seven days.

Between 8 and 9pm about 55 exhausted but undefeated women returned to base, some suffering the early stages of hypothermia, others with twisted ankles and a few, myself included, the beginnings of frost-nip. Dartmoor had been unforgiving but to

the surprise of the organisers the women were unyielding — most said they would do it again if selection for the team depended upon it.

The weekend was intended as a self-selection exercise. The next stage is three days of Special Forces training in June. Of the 40 women expected to turn up, eight pairs will make their 125km contribution to the journey from Ward Hunt Island in northern Canada to the North Pole.

I am not sure whether Dartmoor or Special Forces training will make me ready for the cruel conditions in the Arctic. But for that sense of achievement after completing the most arduous walk of my life, I would not turn down the chance of conquering the North Pole.

© The Polar Travel Company: 01364 631470; Caroline Hamilton: 0956 318332.



We can do it: 55 women completed the trial, and said that they would do it again



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Queuing for a place

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is one of the more extreme "side-suit first" hands that I've seen. It was played in the 1995 American Life Master Pairs.

Dealer East North-South vulnerable match pointed pairs

♠AKQ3	♥AKQ3	♦AKQ3	♣AKQ3
♠J1097	♥J1097	♦J1097	♣J1097
♠873	♥873	♦873	♣873
♠K6	♥K6	♦K6	♣K6
♠J10	♥J10	♦J10	♣J10
♠AK8632	♥AK8632	♦AK8632	♣AK8632
♠QJ1065	♥QJ1065	♦QJ1065	♣QJ1065
♠8542	♥8542	♦8542	♣8542
♠A	♥A	♦A	♣A

W N E S

1H 5C 2H 4S

Contract: Six Spades by South Lead: eight of hearts

(1) Guarantees four spades. South's Four Spade bid looks absurd to me, even at match pointed pairs. A forcing attack is too likely to lead to entry problems. Better to bid Five Diamonds over Two Hearts, though whether North would have raised to Six Diamonds isn't clear.

At the table West (Peter Weisheit, playing with Zia Mahmood) led the eight of hearts, trying to put his partner in for a diamond ruff. South ruffed, drew trumps and then misguessed the diamonds, enabling the defence to take a diamond and two heart tricks.

In the report of the event, South was criticised for not deducing that West had underled the ace and king of hearts. If South had realised that, it would have led him to the right conclusion about the diamonds.

However the hand is virtually lay-down if the trumps are 3-2. (If the trumps are 4-1 the hand is unmanageable.) All the declarer has to do after ruffing the heart is cross to dummy with a spade and lead a diamond, finessing when East plays the eight. Whether West wins with the singleton king or ruffs, declarer is now in control to take another heart ruff in hand, draw trumps and run the diamonds.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WOOD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

GOSSOON
a. To sail cross wind
b. A silken fibre
c. A lad

PROCELLOUS
a. Stormy
b. Sophisticated
c. A monastery porch

BUNDOBUST
a. A wedding party
b. Arrangements
c. A large drum

YAUU
a. The bar-tailed woodpecker
b. A rolling scrum
c. To deviate

Answers on page 37

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Strategic win

After his unsuccessful exertions in the New York World Championship, the Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand wisely decided to take a three-month rest before re-entering tournament fray. The downside was that Anand became somewhat rusty after this period of inaction, but on the plus side he was able to furnish himself with a fresh arsenal of ideas, including a switch from his habitual king pawn opening to the queen's pawn.

Anand's second prize in the Wijk aan Zee tournament, behind only Ivanchuk, marked a reasonable comeback. Anand's tally of wins included this victory against British grandmaster Michael Adams in which Anand switched to his new style of opening.

White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Michael Adams
Wijk aan Zee, January 1996

Queen's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	Nf3	e6
3	c4	b6
4	g3	Bb7
5	Bg2	Ba7
6	0-0	0-0
7	Re1	c5
8	cxd5	exd5
9	Nc3	Nc6
10	Bd4	c5
11	Re2	Nd4
12	cxn5	Nxc5
13	Nc4	Bf6
14	Bh3	Ng5

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Diagram of final position

Solution on page 37

By Raymond Keene

Black to move. This position is from the game Orjajewski - Bubnov, USSR 1926. The white kingside has been weakened by the advance of the g-pawn. This gives Black the chance for a brilliant finish. What did he play?

Court of Appeal

Shipper's liability not qualified

Effort Shipping Co Ltd v Linden Management SA and Another (The Giannis NK) Before Lord Justice Hoffmann, Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Bingham

The liability under Article IV, rule 6 of the Hague-Visby Rules of a shipper of dangerous goods for all damages and expenses directly or indirectly arising out of or resulting from their shipment, was not qualified by rule 3 of the same article which provided that he was not to be responsible for loss or damage resulting from fire or theft without his act, fault or neglect.

Testator cannot postpone operation of will

Corbett v Newey and Others Before Lord Justice Bingham, Lord Justice Mummery and Lord Justice Hoffmann

Given the requirement that every will had to be made with immediate testamentary intent, a testator could not by a will postpone the operation of his will until some direction or condition upon its execution of the document which would postpone or qualify its operation.

Landlord's notice was valid

Marath and Another v MacGillivray A notice from a landlord to tenant was valid under section 8 of the Housing Act 1988 if it clearly alleged that three months' rent was overdue and made clear how much or how the tenant could ascertain how much was allegedly owing.

qualified by rule 3. He had relied on three US authorities in which it was held that the shipper was exonerated from liability under the US equivalent of rule 3 in the US Carriage of Goods by Sea Act 1924.

He had invited the court not to follow the relevant English authorities: The Fiona (1993) 1 Lloyd's Rep 257 and The Athanasia Cominos (1993) 1 Lloyd's Rep 277.

Evidence of fresh events admissible on appeal

Rushmore Borough Council v Richards Before Mr Justice Tuckey

In an appeal against a local authority's decision under paragraph 16 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, justices were entitled to take account of evidence of events which had happened between the date of the original hearing and the appeal.

Apology removed any risk of bias

Bernstein and a Jury at Liverpool County Court on April 7, 1994. Mr Peter Herbert for the appellant; Mr Eric Shannon for the chief constable.

LORD JUSTICE HOFFMANN said the case concerned a shipment of groundnuts and wheat from Senegal to the Dominican Republic. The cargo was infected with khapra beetle (Trogoderma granarium evans) which the judge had decided was a dangerous cargo.

After discharging some of the cargo the vessel had received a notice from the US Department of Agriculture ordering it to return the cargo to their country of origin or dump them at sea. The cargo had been dumped and the vessel had required extensive fumigation to eliminate the beetles.

Reid v Chief Constable of Merseyside

Before Lord Justice Bingham, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Mummery

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM said that he accepted that in our multicultural society no tribunal should use that figure of speech. Its use could plainly give offence and lead to the suggestion that its use was indicative of the attitude of the person using it.

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

The following candidates were successful in the 1995 Professional 3 examinations of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Law Report February 5 1996

Queen's Bench Division

Regina v Secretary of State for Social Security, Ex parte Taylor

Regina v Same, Ex parte Chapman Before Mr Justice Keene

The Secretary of State could still exercise his power to recover money by making deductions from prescribed benefits when the intended recipient of those benefits had become bankrupt.

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500000

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E, Dividend, Yield. Includes sub-sections: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E, Dividend, Yield. Includes sub-sections: BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E, Dividend, Yield. Includes sub-sections: BUILDING MATERIALS, ENGINEERING, CHEMICALS, DISTRIBUTORS.

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Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E, Dividend, Yield. Includes sub-sections: FOOD MANUFACTURERS, LEISURE & HOTELS, OIL & GAS, MEDIA.

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Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E, Dividend, Yield. Includes sub-sections: HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, BRITISH FUNDS, SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation), MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years), INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E, Dividend, Yield. Includes sub-sections: PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, WATER.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Elbief, Henderson Administration Group, Mif Wynd Investment Trust, US Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Waste Management International.
 Finals: Fleming Claverhouse.
 Economic statistics: UK housing starts and completions (December), UK M0 narrow money supply.

TOMORROW

Interims: BSKyB, Howard Holdings.
 Finals: French Property Trust, Gardiner Group, Pepsico, Yeoman Investment Trust.
 Economic statistics: UK industrial production (December).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: BAA (Q3), Betacom, Excalibur Group.
 Finals: Amicable Smaller Enterprise, Continental Assets Trust, Continental Foods, Goodyear, Murray European Investment Trust, SKF.
 Economic statistics: UK monthly monetary meeting, UK cyclical indicators (January), US trade deficit (November), Confederation of British Industry regional trends survey.

THURSDAY

Interims: Amstrad, British Telecom (Q3), Wyfield Group, Westminster Healthcare.
 Finals: Colgate-Palmolive, Edinburgh Java Trust, Ericsson, Gartmore Emerging Pacific, P&P.
 Economic statistics: none scheduled.

FRIDAY

Interims: Compel Group.
 Finals: Heavitree Brewery, Nightright.
 Economic statistics: CBI distributive trades survey (January).

SUNDAY TIPS

Sunday Telegraph: Buy Frederick Cooper, Limit, Hiscox Select, CLM. Sell Standard Chartered. The Mail On Sunday: Buy Merchant Retail Group, Main and Overseas. Hold WPP. Aegis. Independent On Sunday: Buy Games Workshop, Sell Sainsbury, Perpetual, Cassidy Brothers, Airtrics. The Sunday Times: Buy Williams Holdings, Bloomsbury, MKT. Hold Bardon. Sell Border TV. Observer: Sell Tomkins, BP, Shell.

COMPANIES MICHAEL CLARK



OF T poser for BSKyB watchers

BskyB: When analysts converge on the group tomorrow to discuss its half-year figures, the main topic of conversation is likely to revolve around the Office of Fair Trading investigation into its competitive position in the television subscription market.

As far as brokers are concerned, the outcome of the inquiry is crucial in establishing the long-term prospects of BSKyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. NatWest Securities, the broker, maintains that the group's claim to have bilateral political support has been damaged by Labour's concern relating to the exclusive screening rights of major sports events and control of encryption technology. It says that BSKyB's current rating makes it vulnerable to any unfavourable regulatory decision.

Even so, tomorrow's figures should make impressive reading. The group has already indicated that its second-quarter performance will be a virtual repeat of the first quarter, which saw pre-tax profits double to £51 million. Brokers are looking for the first six months to show profits surging from £63.3 million to about £106 million.

Meanwhile, the group will concentrate on its joint programming venture with Granada and its entry into pay-per-view television with Frank Bruno's fight against Mike Tyson next month.

BRITISH TELECOM: Third-quarter figures on Thursday mark Sir Peter Bonfield's debut as chairman. While the group's performance will be under close scrutiny, much of the emphasis will be placed on what Sir Peter has to say about regulatory matters overhanging the group and the future direction of the company.

Estimates for pre-tax profits range from £741 million to £800 million, compared with £660 million last time. However, the improvement will stem as much from a drop in redundancy charges as any increase in profits at the operating level, which may even show a small decline.



Man for all seasons: Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSKyB, has encountered concern over sports coverage

The installation of business lines is likely to have remained buoyant but the number of domestic connections will probably have continued to decline.

The real focus of attention will be on the regulatory situation: BT remains at odds with OfTel, the industry regulator, and there is no sign of the problems between the two sides being resolved. OfTel is expected to make

known its final licence modifications by May, with BT allowed until the end of July for consultation before either accepting them or referring the whole matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

BAA: In spite of increased competition from the likes of Eurostar, and the Channel link, the number of passengers passing through the

group's departure lounges and duty free shops shows encouraging growth.

This augurs well for third-quarter figures to be announced on Wednesday, which should reveal pre-tax profits 11 per cent higher at £361 million and a healthy growth in earnings per share of 2.8p to 26.3p.

After a sluggish start to the current financial year, traffic growth picked up towards the

end of 1995, with the group boasting a better than expected rise of almost 6 per cent. This was in spite of increased competition and a dull charter market.

NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for an increase of 4.3 per cent, to £304 million, in revenues from airport charges, partly reflecting the rebalancing of peak and off-peak charges.

terminal at Heathrow continues to rumble on and is unlikely to be concluded until next year at the earliest. But the five-yearly review of operations, which sees the Civil Aviation Authority setting airport charges, should be finished at the end of October.

WASTE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL: Full-year figures on Friday are unlikely to make pleasant reading, but hopes are high that they will prove to be a turning point in the group's fortunes. Brokers are bracing themselves for a drop in pre-tax profits of about £20 million to £145 million.

The group gave a clear indication of the extent of the damages back in December, when it said that provisions accompanying the figures were likely to reach £123 million. This arguably took some of the steam out of the situation as far as the market was concerned.

Much of the problem stems from its Hazwaste division, which bore the brunt of last year's writedowns. France has been a particularly annoying thorn in the group's side, struggling to come to terms with overcapacity.

The WMI management is now taking steps to reduce costs and cap overheads at £150 million a year. A total of 300 senior and middle managers will lose their jobs.

DALGETY: Brokers will be looking for evidence of how the integration of its Quaker Foods European pet food operation is bedding down when the company unveils half-year figures on Monday.

Quaker Foods was acquired last year for £442 million and is expected to have performed well, with the Felix label grabbing market share from Dalgety's own home-based pet food operation.

That aside, the group continues to struggle in its main home market, where trading conditions remain difficult. Pre-tax profits for the first six months are expected to fall short of last year's £60.9 million, with City estimates pitched at between £47 million and £53 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Spotlight falls on industrial output

By Sarah Cunningham

ATTENTION will focus this week on Britain's industrial output figures for December, due to be published tomorrow. Evidence so far, including last week's Purchasing Managers' Index, suggests that production remains flat and economists are predicting nothing more than a 0.3 per cent rise in manufacturing output, which would give a year-on-year rise of 0.9 per cent. Total industrial production is forecast to rise 0.4 to 0.6 per cent, boosted slightly by North Sea oil and gas output, which would mean an annual rise of about 1.5 to 1.7 per cent.

Retail sales, by contrast, have been more positive of late and January M0 money supply figures, due today, and the CBI's trades survey for January, out on Friday, will indicate whether the improved trend has continued. Forecasts for M0 were in the range of minus 0.6 to plus 1.0 per cent, according to MMS International, equal to a year-on-year rise of 5.5 to 7.2 per cent.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Bank Governor, meet on Wednesday for their regular monthly meeting, but after producing a surprise base rate cut last time, no change is expected for a while, probably until rates start falling in Europe.

In France, the CGT trade union federation is calling for further protests this week. A Bank of France council meeting planned for Thursday is unlikely to result in any French rate cuts.

Figures from Germany this week include December manufacturing orders, while US data will include the November trade balance for goods and services, today, and December consumer credit, on Wednesday.

Scottish Life chases expatriate market

By Marianne Curphey and Caroline Merrell

SCOTTISH LIFE will tomorrow follow in the footsteps of its fellow life offices in Edinburgh by creating an offshore joint venture aimed at expatriates. Its partner in the venture will be Kleinwort Benson, the investment bank. It is under-

stood the operation will be headed by John Allison of Ivory & Sims, who helped launch TrustLink, I&S's first venture into retail investment. The venture, based in Dublin, will be known as Scottish Life International. Mr Allison

will be marketing director and is expected to be joined by Rick May and Mike Richardson, two former senior Clerical Medical & General managers. Mr Allison left Ivory & Sims last week after two years as

managing director of TrustLink to be replaced by Richard Ramsey, I&S marketing director. Scottish Life refused to confirm the launch of the offshore venture and would only say it was "looking at all possibilities".

Germans to pay £180m for Lloyd's building

By Marianne Curphey

LOYD'S OF LONDON'S City headquarters has been bought by Despa, a German property fund, after beating bids from three rivals. The price for the ten-year-old building is about £180 million, £20 million below building cost.

The Lime Street property has been unofficially for sale since last May, when plans were approved to sell it, but has been on the market since December. Prudential is believed to have been one of the firms interested in bidding for it, but Despa made an offer on January 31.

A spokesman for Lloyd's yesterday said that contracts had been exchanged and the sale would go ahead either today or tomorrow after all 18 members of the Council of Members had been contacted and had given their approval.

The money raised will go towards the insurance market's proposed £2.8 billion settlement for loss-making names. Lloyd's will lease back the building for 25 years, paying about £30 per sq ft.

The purchase confirms the growing dominance of the Germans in the UK property market. Despa already owns a number of buildings in the centre of London, including Hill House in Little New Street and 171 Victoria Street, let to John Lewis, the retailer. Lloyd's said it had secured "a good deal" on the property, but still has to pay for maintenance and repairs on the controversial glass and steel building. Despa is expected to make a 6 per cent return on its investment.

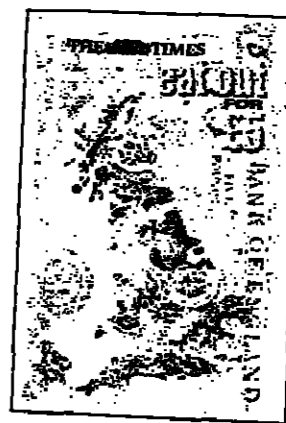


Eat out for a fiver

DINING IS always a pleasure, but with *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer it is also affordable and with over 400 restaurants to choose from, there is something to suit everyone's taste. From the north of Scotland to the coast of Cornwall, you can sample the cuisine of the nation's top chefs for a fraction of what you would normally pay. From more than 400 restaurants participating all are offering lunch for £5, but many are also offering dinner for £5. The majority are offering a two course menu, some are offering as many as three courses for only £5 and some offer a one course £5 menu. To apply cut out the vouchers which are appearing in *The Times*. The first is printed below and more will appear daily until Saturday, February 17.

Each voucher entitles you and up to five companions to dine at the participating restaurants featured in today's *Eat Out For £5* guide. The more vouchers you collect, the more restaurants you may dine in. All bookings and inquiries should be made by phone to the restaurant and you must mention *The Times* Eat Out For £5 offer when you make your booking. You must present your voucher when you arrive at the restaurant. The offer is available from February 12 until March 31, 1996 inclusive. Full terms and conditions are published in the guide.

If you did not get a copy of "Eat Out For £5" in *The Times* today, please call 0171 782 7155 to receive a copy.



This voucher entitles the bearer and up to five guests to a one, two or three course meal for £5 each at any one of the participating restaurants in *The Times* Eat out for £5 guide.

CONDITIONS OF USE
 Reservations must be made in advance and the voucher presented on arrival. The offer applies to the Eat out for £5 menu only at applicable sittings for up to six people. One, two or three courses apply as specified in the guide. Where less than three courses are offered, starters and desserts can be selected from the main menu and the appropriate price must be paid. This offer applies to food only - drinks must be purchased separately. Where no drinks are purchased, restaurants may charge a discretionary £2 per person cover charge. The offer is valid from February 12 until March 31, 1996. Refer to the guide for full details, days available and whether lunch or dinner is being offered.

THE TIMES

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هكتافن الا حها

Martin Waller on why the cold snap left customers hot under the collar

Is British Gas Service losing control?

For a few days after Christmas, while most of the country was leafing through *Della* for yet another use for cold turkey, a select band of householders had more pressing priorities. These priorities were raising the ambient temperature in their living rooms to above freezing and the public dismemberment of David Wells and his team.

For that brief period, Mr Wells was probably the most unpopular man in the UK — the managing director of British Gas's newly demerged service business. Fat cat utility bosses are at their least loved when their utility is not even delivering the goods — as Yorkshire Water has found out — and the service side was failing its customers in their thousands.

In October, British Gas increased the price of its three-star service contract to more than £100 in some areas. That contract is designed to offer peace of mind by guaranteeing same-day service and repair if the fault is reported by 7.30 in the evening. Within a month of the price rise, as this newspaper was the first to note, customers whose heating or hot water failed were discovering that the guarantee could not be relied upon.

The sudden cold snap meant gas engineers were too busy in some parts of the country even to guarantee arrival on any given day. Customers who had thought they were insured were waiting for days in sub-zero temperatures, with no quarter granted to the sick, the old or those with young children.

It got worse. The long freeze over Christmas and the New Year again caught out British Gas, particularly in Scotland, where the weather was appalling, and in the South East region that had borne the brunt of the earlier problems. Worse still, the tabloids were onto the problem.

"The vast majority of people who have contacted us over Christmas would have got a same-day call," Mr Wells insists. The statistics show that in December 86 per



The heat is on: David Wells, managing director, admits that British Gas Service failed to deliver the goods during the recent bad weather

cent of calls were responded to on the same day, although this is a long way below the 95 per cent achieved in the same month of 1994.

But the statistics mask huge regional variations and the fact that most of the trouble came at the end of the month. In the worst-affected area, West London, the December average fell to little better than two thirds. The response rate during the worst weather is unlikely to have topped 50 per cent, and on some days it could have been much lower.

Mr Wells insists that the causes of this misery were twofold. There was significantly worse weather than anyone

had seen for five years, and his service operation is in the middle of an unprecedented reorganisation programme.

The old regional structure of 90-odd administrative sectors is coming down to seven areas. The workforce is falling from 25,500 in 1994 to a projected 10,000 in 1999, although some of the losses will be redeployed in Transco, British Gas's transportation business. The number of premises British Gas Service operates from will fall from 422 to just 11.

The service business was hived off in March 1994 as British Gas prepared for full competition in the domestic supply market, a trial of which

is now just months away. "It was quite clear that at least the gas supply part had to have a clean profit and loss account to compete against new competitors," says Mr Wells. "That meant the service activities had to stand on their own two feet as well."

The process of separation was imperfect, he admits. "We knew that it was going to be a struggle. We knew we would have a problem in keeping the eye wholly on the ball. We have fallen short in some respects but it hasn't been from want of trying." As part of the reorganisation, Service

has pulled out of some unprofitable areas, such as domestic cooker repairs and tendered work for local authorities, and put in a raft of new computer systems. These market withdrawals account for the bulk of the engineers lost, says Mr Wells. "For our core activities, we don't have any fewer engineers than we did two years ago," he says.

Other innovations are a gizmo developed with Panasonic — a CD-Rom field terminal carried by engineers that diagnoses faults on heating systems and can be used by the engineer to order any part needed — and a new store in Leicester that will carry 97

to 98 per cent of all parts now used in domestic systems. The aim is that if the engineer does not carry the necessary part, as he should do in 65 per cent of visits, these will be supplied by the next day.

The problem is that all these systems are not yet in place, but are being rolled out piecemeal over the next year. By next winter the whole lot should be operational, but this will not help customers who suffer in any further cold snaps this winter. "People here are focused on getting through the rest of the winter in one piece," Mr Wells admits.

The worry is that the well-publicised disasters will mean

customers will not take out further service contracts as they come up for annual renewal. British Gas Service has about three million such customers, four fifths of the market, but there are plenty of hungry competitors, some of whom are already touting for business.

Bob Frazer, head of operations, is equally candid about the dangers of this winter and the danger that the chaos will continue. Conditions in Scotland, he says, were "almost unprecedented. Whenever we get that sort of weather we're going to have trouble."

In the South East, he admits, his regional offices were not giving priority where they should, to contract customers and the sick or elderly, or those with young children. "Our managers out there were changing the priorities. They were under pressure from customers."

"If people were shouting loud enough, on-demand customers (those who had not taken out service contracts) were getting priority over contract customers. I think it was because of the pressure our people were getting over the telephones."

The offending contracts, which came in a bewildering variety of forms because of the earlier regional structure, are being redrafted as a single document. The final wording is not yet settled, but it is likely to emphasise that same-day service cannot be relied on in all cases, where conditions are exceptionally bad or demand is especially heavy.

"We're not looking to find a form of words that will let us off the hook with our customers. We're looking to provide same-day service for anyone who calls before 7.30 in the evening," says Mr Frazer.

The central question is whether next winter, with all the improvements in place, will be better than this one for British Gas Service customers. "It's got to be," both men say in unison, Mr Wells adds. "We will go down the tubes as a business if it isn't."

Borrie supports watchdog reform

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LORD BORRIE, the former Director-General of Fair Trading, calls today for the scrapping of the current system of utility regulation in favour of a single regulatory commission.

His support for a single regulatory body follows similar calls from Sir Bryan Carsberg, his successor at the Office of Fair Trading, and from the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee.

While Labour is pledged to bring in a single regulatory body, government ministers insist it would be inappropriate and maintain that the current system, including the separate maintenance of the OFT and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, should be sustained.

Writing to the Commission on the Regulation of Privatised Utilities, an inquiry set up by the Hansard Society and European Policy Forum pressure groups, Lord Borrie says that regulation of the utilities would be strengthened if a new Regulatory Commission was created with industry-specific component divisions.

Lord Borrie, a former head of Labour's Social Justice Commission, says: "Several objectives of the regulators are common. Let them gain strength by being brought together."

Some industry regulators have attracted sharp criticism for their actions, but Lord Borrie says that, under a single regulatory body, there would be a "check on individual excess or waywardness".

The former OFT head also supports the idea that more mergers of regulated utilities ought to be subject to mandatory reference to the MMC — especially those crossing different industries.

pp aims t

ing to sign industry agreement in China

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Nerves are tingling in the high street. On Friday, Hanson announced that it would close six out of ten of the Powerhouse electrical shops...

Don't let regulation stifle the voice of market forces



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

success stories of competition. A new Hobart Paper, inspired when Mr Grouser was in full cry, explains why an unregulated market worked so well for most consumers...

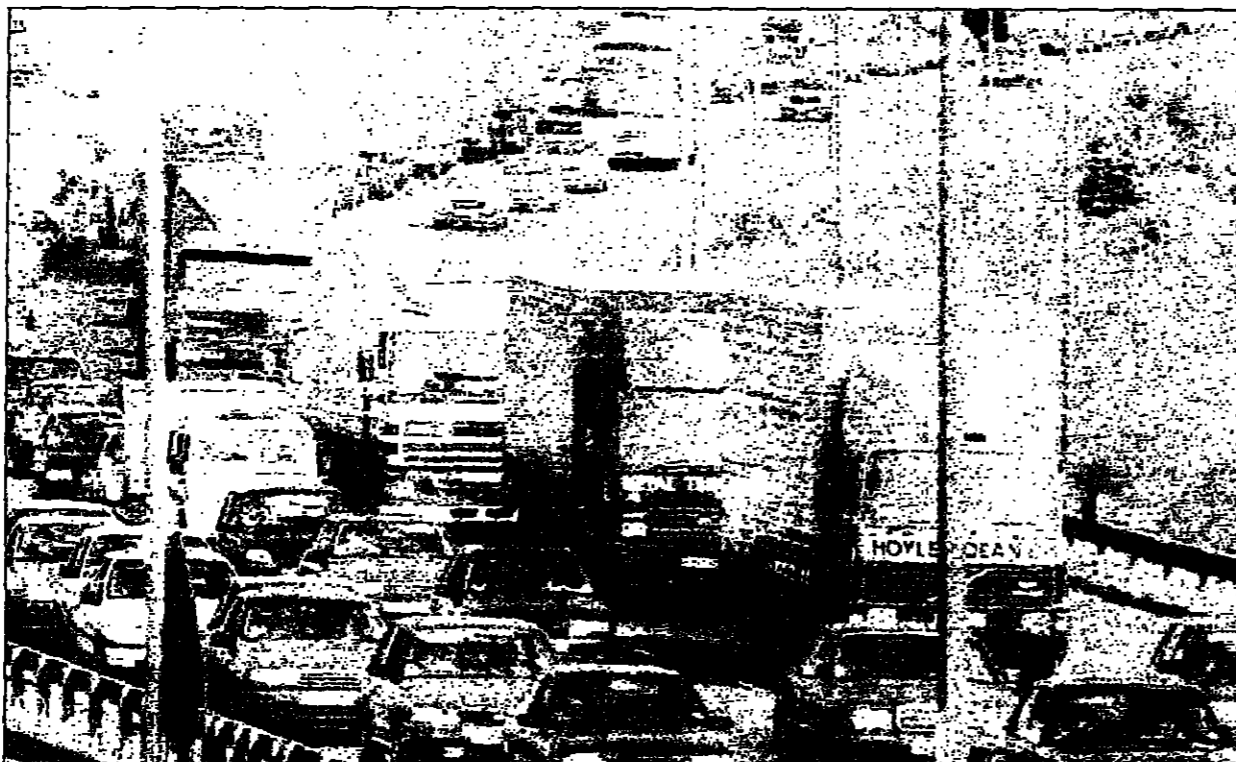
Ofshop controlled prices, it would have stifled competition and innovation, returning paradoxically to the stagnant days of retail price maintenance...

the entertainment market, making it uneconomic to invest in a national information superhighway. Now Ofel wants BT to give plenty of advance notice of any new services...

Sarah Bagnall finds Tesco's streamlined goods inwards system paying off handsomely

Squaring an endless delivery cycle

Given so little latitude to raise prices without losing sales to competitors, Britain's supermarket groups are left with little option but to scrutinise every aspect of their cost bases...



Jam session: a Tesco transport initiative should cut the number of vehicles used to distribute goods by 25 per cent

ment are far-reaching and often provoke outbursts of invective from the public. A common feature of Britain's motorways is the seemingly endless stream of swaying lorries...

that day's supplies of kippers and lettuce to supermarket groups' distribution depots scattered around the country.

products. It is this that has spurred Tesco into action. The supermarket group is overhauling the outmoded system, in a move that is expected to save millions of pounds...

cant. For example, under this system a farmer might have to travel a total of 2,500 miles every day of the week to supply Tesco and its other retailers with potatoes.

temperature regimes: frozen: zero for foods such as fresh meat and fish; plus three degrees for produce such as apples; plus ten for other produce including exotic fruits; plus 15 for bananas, bread and other items...

Good-bye battery



Seiko Kinetic. The first and only quartz watch that generates its own energy from your every movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz naturally, without a battery...



THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Still seeking the third man? EXECUTIVE headhunters Whitehead Mann suggest it could be some time before white smoke appears from the Stock Exchange signalling that a new chief executive has been elected.

Big shot MICHAEL ANDREW, whose 20 years in the City included positions with Merrill Lynch and Salomon Brothers before he "retired" last year, is returning to City life.

Refining process FEEL like jumping on gold's bandwagon but feel uneducated about the language gold buffs use? Help is at hand.

Ode to Equitas ROSS GOW, a former director of CT Bowring, wine the City Diary's Christmas ditty competition. A bottle of Champagne is on its way to him for Ode to Equitas.

RADIO CHOICE We, at least, are amused. Battling with the Past. Radio 4 FM, 10.00am. History Now and Then. Radio 3, 9.00pm. RADIO 1, RADIO 2, RADIO 3, RADIO 4, WORLD SERVICE, CLASSIC FM, VIRGIN RADIO, TALK RADIO.

SUPERMARKET SWEEP 38

TESCO SHAKES UP DISTRIBUTION TO MAKE HUGE SAVINGS

BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5 1996

REGULATION UNREST 38

CAN MARKET FORCES ALONE KEEP RETAILERS IN LINE?

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COON



Graham Halsall, right, his brother Alan, second right, joint managing directors of David Halsall, with John Walker, left, and Tony Hyams of EZV Private Equity Investment, which has arranged a £5.25 million capital injection to aid expansion at the toy distributor. The firm, which serves Woolworths, Toys 'R' Us, and Asda, among others has a turnover of £31 million.

Heat back on for directors at British Gas

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders are putting pressure on British Gas for a further boardroom shake-up that could result in the departure of Cedric Brown, the embattled chief executive.

Three non-executive directors, including Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, and Lord Walker, who was the government minister responsible for the privatisation of British Gas, are also under threat. British Gas executives are believed to be disappointed with the contribution the non-executives have made to the business, particularly Lord Walker's reluctance to consider the disposal of some assets.

whose three-year contract expires at the end of the year, and Mr Brown. It is understood that some shareholders have raised the spectre of blocking an extension to Mr Giordano's contract unless further reforms are made.

The recent boardroom shake-ups have been widely interpreted as bearing the stamp of Mr Giordano, leaving Mr Brown increasingly isolated as the only major remaining member of the British Gas old guard.

Roy Gardner, a contender for the chief executive's position, last month moved from financial director to take responsibility for renegotiating the take-or-pay contracts and for managing competition in the household market. Phillip Hampton was recruited from British Steel to become financial director, while John Wybrew was lured from Shell to take control of strategy planning and communications. Three other executive directors - Russell Herbert, Norman Blacker and Howard Dalton - were forced off the board last autumn.

At the centre of the boardroom friction is the uneasy relationship between Richard Giordano, the chairman

Gas Service, page 36

Single market at risk if EMU falters, says Santer

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS

THE European single market will probably collapse early next decade if there is any delay or deviation from the Maastricht plan to create a European monetary union by January 1999, according to Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, speaking at the weekend.

The blunt warning issued by Mr Santer, and political leaders from Germany and Belgium, reinforced the statement by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, on Friday that European integration had become a "question of war and peace".

In what appeared to be a concerted campaign to suppress doubts about the Maastricht process, before they got out of hand, Mr Santer joined

Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, and Wolfgang Schauble, chairman of Germany's ruling Christian Democrat party, in saying that the creation of the single market was "not an irreversible process".

Speaking to an audience of senior businessmen at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, the three leaders used almost identical language to convey their stark message.

"The single market is not irreversible and those who believe that it is are mistaken," said Herr Schauble. "Europe is first and foremost a political programme, not an economic programme. If we abandon what has been agreed at Maastricht, we cannot hold onto what has already been

achieved." He added that any thought of delaying Maastricht was dangerous and counter-productive. Achieving monetary union "is not a matter of time, it is a matter of will", he said.

Mr Dehaene's threat of protectionist barriers within Europe were even more explicit. "My conviction is that without monetary union, the single market will not hold," he said. "Those who think the internal market is irreversible have illusions."

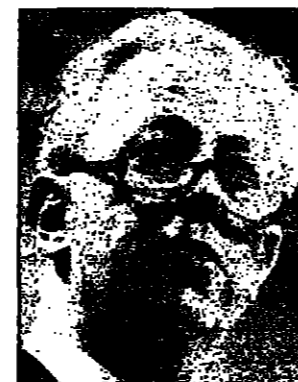
"At the moment, we accept some of the consequences of competitive devaluations because we have the perspective of monetary union in 1999. But if we have no perspective of monetary union, countries which suffer from competitive devaluations will take measures that are completely contrary to the internal market to protect themselves."

Mr Santer said that he fully agreed with the other two leaders' comments and added an explicit warning about the

consequences of delaying EMU beyond 1999. "Any delay might mean that monetary union is never achieved," he said. "That would be a giant step backwards on the road to political union. I don't know whether the internal market would survive such a blow."

Even Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commission vice-president, who is generally considered to be most committed to maintaining free trade, said that "nothing in this world is irreversible" and added that "monetary events could put pressure on the single market".

Underlining the growing rift between the unqualified supporters of a single market and the European leaders who want to use it as a bargaining chip to achieve monetary union, Sir Leon said: "The commitment to a single market is separate from the commitment to the single currency. The Commission's policy and the treaties are clear. Those countries which do not participate in monetary union are fully entitled to the benefit of the single market."



Santer: blunt warning

Deal near on Sears shoe shops

Sears is expected to reveal tomorrow that it has sold its Saxeone and Curtess shoe shop chains to Stephen Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman behind Facia.

The 111-strong Saxeone chain and the 124 Curtess stores were put up for sale by Sears early last month as the group moved to reduce the number of its shoe chains.

Hanson move

Hanson said yesterday that a special dividend was one of several options during the demerger process. Speculation is that a 12p sweetener may be added to the package.

Stadium float

Stadium Group, the engineering company, says it intends to float in the next three months to raise £10 million, giving it a market capitalisation of £30 million.

Carlton bid

Carlton, the media company behind the London and Midlands ITV franchises, is said to be preparing a £300 million bid for HTV, the Welsh company which has the West of England TV franchise.

Executive bonus overhaul urged

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

STANDARD LIFE, one of the country's leading investors, has called for a complete overhaul of executive bonuses to ensure senior managers are rewarded for "outstanding performance not mediocrity".

Guy Jubb, the insurer's corporate governance director, said that the directors of FT-SE 100 companies should set an example for the rest of the industry. "We are committed to share ownership by executives but the scheme should motivate them to achieve outstanding results, not reward them for mediocrity," he said.

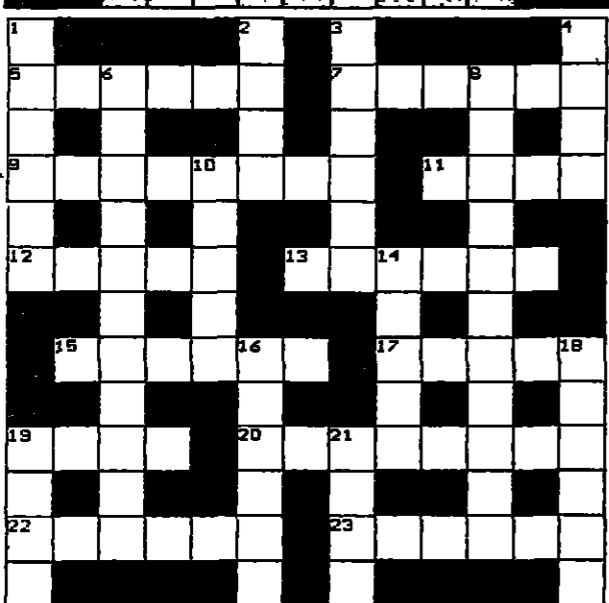
Two FT-SE 100 quoted companies singled out by Standard Life are Carlton Communications, the media group in which the insurer has a 3 per cent stake, and BT. Standard Life has warned it will vote

against Carlton's plans for paying senior managers hundreds of thousands of pounds in bonuses. Selling its stake in Carlton was "always an option", Mr Jubb added.

Michael Green, Carlton executive chairman, is understood to be in line for a £500,000 bonus on top of his basic salary of £450,000. Carlton executives could get a bonus in shares of up to 100 per cent of their basic salaries if their share price and dividends produce a total return within the top 25 of FT-SE companies over three years. Standard Life feels performance targets are too easy for the managers to achieve.

Norwich Union, which has a 3.5 per cent stake in Carlton Communications, has also expressed "concern" over the media group's bonus plan.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 696

- ACROSS: 5 Popular music from Jamaica (6); 7 Wood left after sawing (6); 9 Unthinking (reaction) (4-4); 11 Tiller: (arch.) headpiece (4); 12 Vertical part of stair (5); 13 Small, dainty (girl) (6); 15 Gloomy; sombre; feeble (6); 17 Seaweed cast on shore (5); 19 Catch, hitch (4); 20 (Joke) fail to amuse (4,4); 22 Intelligent (6); 23 African country; old coin (6). DOWN: 1 Middleman (6); 2 Fund-raising entertainment (4); 3 Taker of bets (6); 4 Stalk to stop (4); 6 Projection from poor data (11); 8 Dispirited (11); 10 Large drinking bowl (5); 14 Wiping cloth (5); 16 Provide; find money for (6); 18 Soldier's canvas holder (6); 19 Pillage; dismiss; bag (4); 21 Toboggan (4).

SOLUTION TO NO 695: ACROSS: 1 Duck; 3 Uncommon; 8 Dail; 9 Cup Final; 11 Cri de coeur; 14 Tragic; 15 Sup-go; 17 Video nasty; 20 Aquiline; 21 Fat; 22 Rekindle; 23 Zest. DOWN: 1 Dedicate; 2 Criminal; 4 Neuron; 5 Off-putting; 6 Marx; 7 Nell; 10 Penicillin; 12 Apostate; 13 Polyglot; 16 Vernal; 18 Fair; 19 Hulk.

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Change expected in way jobless count reported

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government appears ready to introduce a new monthly measure of unemployment after a Whitehall report urging ministers to publish the total number of people out of work in Britain. Currently it publishes the numbers that are out of work and claiming benefit.

Dr Tim Holt, director of the Central Statistical Office, is expected to reveal details of the Internal CSO report on unemployment figures when he appears before MPs next week to give evidence on the Government's jobless data.

Dr Holt, the Government's chief statistician, commissioned the report when he took

over at the CSO last year after a long and bitter public argument over the validity of the Government's unemployment figures, which Labour claimed were "fiddled".

The report is understood to recommend publishing, in tandem with the monthly claimant count, a monthly total of the numbers out of work drawn from the Government's Labour Force Survey. Currently, the LFS - a survey of a rolling sample of 60,000 households - publishes unemployment figures, based on the internationally-acceptable International Labour Office standard, every three months. Ministers calculate that

moving to a monthly LFS could add an extra £10 million to its costs, which they claim is unjustifiable at a time of tight public spending restraints. They are also concerned that the public may be confused if two counts of unemployment are published every month. Long-term unemployment should be tackled by a new temporary work scheme, which would create 500,000 jobs at an annual cost of £1.7 billion, according to the Institute for Public Policy Research think-tank today. The IPPR says that the scheme would be cost-effective and would make the long-term unemployed "stakeholders in society".

Greener Tesco saves £12m



Clean sweep: the recycling plant at Snodland, Kent

TESCO's plan to recycle hundreds of thousands of tonnes of cardboard and plastic each year gather momentum on Friday when the second of nine planned recycling units opens (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The nine recycling service units, run by Christian Salvesen, will create 700 jobs and give Tesco annual savings of at least £12 million. On Friday Sir John Stanley, MP for Tonbridge & Malling, and Dame Peggy Fenner MP, chair of the all-party Retail Industry Group, will open the 77,000 sq ft unit at Snodland, Kent. Cardboard is crushed into 650 kg bales and sold to a recycler while shrinkwrap plastic is packed into 100 kg bales for recycling into dustbin bags and supermarket carrier bags.

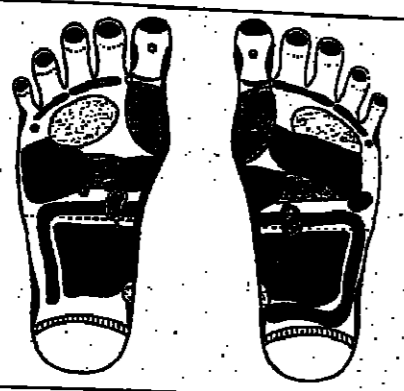
Squaring the circle, page 38

Advertisement for The Dalvey Voyager Clock. Features a detailed image of the clock and text describing its features: 'The Perfect Travelling Companion... THE DALVEY VOYAGER CLOCK Time for one last cocktail as the Imperial Airways flying boat waits at the jetty for the night flight to Mombasa... ELEGANT AND SLIM, LIGHTWEIGHT AND ROBUST... STYLISH AND FUNCTIONAL... PERSONALISED FOR ADDED EXCLUSIVITY... EXCELLENT VALUE... PRIORITY ORDER FORM... The Dalvey Voyager Clock is decorated in the style of the golden age when travel was an adventure...'

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Visible text includes 'Alternative', 'An hon...', 'ternative', 'ust mag', and 'ancing the f...'. It appears to be an advertisement for a magazine or publication.

Day One of a two-part investigation into complementary medicine

Alternative health



- Jeremy Laurance reports on the fastest-growing medical sector
- Three different approaches to the treatment of the whole person

TOMORROW

- Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the links between the NHS and complementary medicine
- The astonishing success of Chinese herbal therapies

An honest alternative, or just magic?

NO one can doubt that alternative medicine works. A third of the population is estimated to have tried its remedies or visited its practitioners, and four out of five pronounce themselves satisfied with the treatment they have received.

Consumption of alternative remedies is rising faster in Britain than in any other European country. Private medical insurers are extending cover to include the main therapies and the NHS is spending at least £1 million a year on complementary practitioners. Nearly half of GPs are estimated to have referred patients for alternative treatments, and the first full-time NHS aromatherapist was recently appointed in Sheffield.

Why, then, is alternative medicine still treated with scepticism? Every profession has its share of venal practitioners. Orthodox medicine is in this respect no different from alternative medicine. But a broader, more damaging charge is laid at the door of alternative practitioners: that their enterprise is a fraud. Not medicine but magic.

The charge has made little impression on the public. Sales of herbal and homeopathic remedies and aromatherapy oils are up by a quarter since 1992 to more than £60 million, according to the market analysts, Mintel. We are still a long way behind our continental neighbours, however. Consumption is less than half that in Germany and a third of that in France, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Private medical insurers have responded to the rising demand. Bupa includes cover for acupuncture, chiropractic, homeopathy and osteopathy in all its policies, provided

PUBLIC VERDICT

referral is through a consultant. Norwich Union Healthcare includes similar cover but only in its top-of-the-range Premiercare policy. The Scandinavian insurer, Ohra, allows subscribers up to 12 treatments a year at £25 a time for the same four therapies, without a doctor's referral.

Growing demand shows that what matters to patients is results, not logic — magic is acceptable to patients if it accomplishes what is promised.

The appeal of alternative medicine is linked to the amount of time available to patients, the use of touch, the magical qualities surrounding the practitioner, and conviction in the method of healing.

Interest has been fostered by a marked softening of the previously hostile attitude shown by the medical profession. The British Medical Association, which had dismissed alternative medicine in a report in 1986 as a "passing

fashion" with no scientific basis, executed a U-turn in 1994 when it admitted large numbers of GPs had made use of it.

The increase in chronic illness, for which orthodox medicine has promised much but delivered little, has given the movement an added boost.

As a measure of alternative medicine's new respectability, the government-sponsored Health Education Authority has published an A-Z guide to 60 therapies. Some, such as yoga with more than 5,000 teachers and 500,000 adherents in Britain, are well known therapeutic aids while others, such as iridology (diagnosis from examination of the iris of the eye) are controversial.

The guide ranks treatments, using a a hotel-style star system. This has drawn criticism from Professor Edvard Ernst of Exeter University, who claims it gives readers a false impression of their scientific standing.

The star system is based on whether scientific research on the therapy is non-existent (one star) or has been published in the best journals (four star). But this, Professor Ernst says, does not tell us what the research showed.

"There are two very good papers on iridology published in top journals and they both say it is totally meaningless as a diagnostic procedure. Yet in the rating system iridology gets three stars."

As Britain's first Professor of Complementary Medicine, he is involved in scientific assessment. He believes that unless researchers adhere to scientific principles and publish well organised studies, they will remain on the periphery of medicine.

Most adherents of comple-



Hands on: bodywork relies on the use of touch and massage to create an overall sense of wellbeing

The power of touch

BODYWORK

Bodywork is all about harnessing the power of touch. It encompasses therapies such as chiropractic, osteopathy, Roling (deep massage), massage, aromatherapy, reflexology and shiatsu. The benefits are becoming more widely recognised by the medical profession — a west London hospital is researching the use of massage in the rehabilitation of stroke victims.

Dr Mario Impallomeni, consultant geriatrician at the Hammersmith Hospital, treated 12 stroke patients with "marma" massage last year, and was so encouraged that he is hoping to start a large-scale study within the next few months.

Marma massage is a feature of Ayurvedic medicine, which believes there are 107 vital points, or *marmas*, in the body. Flesh, veins, arteries, tendons, bones and joints meet up at these points. As with acupuncture, the points are thought to correspond to particular organs or functions.

The claimed effects of the therapy, which is offered by the Hale Clinic in London, are nothing short of miraculous. "One bedridden patient could walk by the end of her treatment," says Theresa Hale.

Another hands-on therapy is manual lymph drainage (MLD). "Manipulating the lymph glands has a detoxifying effect," says Jane Martens, of the Hale Clinic.

The appeal of alternative treatments is not restricted to an eccentric elite. "We are seeing more people than ever, partly because the medical profession is beginning to recognise alternative therapies," she says. She adds that people are beginning to recognise the importance of coping with stress, and will now go for a massage without necessarily being prompted by an ailment.

Cranial osteopathy ranks highly among new treatments and is blossoming into a therapy in its own right. Osteopathy focuses on the role of bones, muscles, tendons, tissues, nerves and the spinal column, in the overall maintenance of the body.

It is used mainly on infants who have had traumatic births. Ms Martens says: "It is amazing how many parents bring their children here, and it's almost as if the kids have come here straight from the womb."

Bodywork does not have to be a reaction to illness. It can be part of a healthy lifestyle, and variations are offered at many health clubs. Champneys, in Tring, Hertfordshire, recently expanded its range of touch-based treatments by introducing an aromatherapy massage for pregnant women.

Like many other establishments, Champneys has adopted an appropriate vocabulary. As well as offering massages for the "mind, body and soul", it has introduced massages which it calls "tranquillity" and "vital energy".

ANJANA AHUJA

Starting at the feet and working upwards

HAVING your feet massaged is many people's idea of heaven, but it is also an increasingly popular form of therapy.

The ancient art of reflexology is based on the premise that the body's main organs and glands are represented on the soles of the feet, which are thus a map of what is

REFLEXOLOGY

going on above. By applying pressure to specific parts of the feet, they believe they can help the body to eliminate its own problems.

Massaging specific points works to stimulate blood circulation and

the lymphatic system, increasing energy and eliminating toxins.

Enthusiasts say they are more energised and relaxed after treatment. One-hour sessions cost around £20.

KATHRYN KNIGHT
● The British Complementary Medicine Association 01242 22670.



Yoga: head-to-toe health

mentary medicine are not prepared to wait for scientific proof, however. They argue that there is a distinction between a therapy that cures, and one that works by improving response to disease.

A cure involves a measurable change in a disease process and this can be objectively confirmed. But a treatment may work, for all sorts of reasons — because someone gave them time, listened to their problems and responded to their concerns.

Illness is what doctors have forgotten about.

JEREMY LAURANCE

WHAT YOUR DOCTOR COULD PRESCRIBE INSTEAD OF TABLETS

MEDICAL CREDIBILITY		SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH	
Indifference ◆◆◆◆	Interest ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆	Anecdotal ◆◆◆◆	In the best journals ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆
Medical credibility	Scientific research	Medical credibility	Scientific research
Insertion of needles to restore energy balance	Uses principle of treating like with like to trigger self-healing	Manage with aromatic plant oils. Relieves stress, pre-menstrual tension	Using plants to treat wide range of chronic illnesses
Manipulation and massage for back and joint pain	Restoring health by non-physical means	Learning how to alter your breathing to reduce anxiety	Restoring health by non-physical means
Induced trance to receive omicrons through use of suggestion	Learning how to alter your breathing to reduce anxiety	Alexander technique: improving posture to improve stress-related illnesses	Restoring health by non-physical means
Taking therapies to relieve anxiety, phobias	Restoring health by non-physical means	Flotation in a tank of warm salt water to treat stress, anxiety	Restoring health by non-physical means
Deep rhythmic breathing to lower blood pressure and heartbeat	Restoring health by non-physical means	Restoring health by non-physical means	Restoring health by non-physical means
Creates sense of wellbeing that can strengthen immune system	Restoring health by non-physical means	Restoring health by non-physical means	Restoring health by non-physical means
Blent thought with rhythmic breathing. Relieves blood pressure and pain	Restoring health by non-physical means	Restoring health by non-physical means	Restoring health by non-physical means
Manipulation - more reliant on X-rays than osteopathy	Restoring health by non-physical means	Restoring health by non-physical means	Restoring health by non-physical means

Balancing the five elements

THE elder statesman among holistic medicines is Ayurveda or Ayurvedism, the ancient Indian "science of life". First described in 1500BC in a body of literature known as the Vedas, it is becoming so popular that the General Medical Council recently agreed to recognise medical schools incorporating Vedic principles, provided their students also obtain conventional qualifications.

Rather than alleviating or curing illness, the Ayurvedic blend of meditation, yoga, astrology, herbal medicine and dietary advice is a philosophy of life which aims to prevent it. According to its teachings, originally in Sanskrit, each of us is composed of five elements — fire,

THE VEDIC PRINCIPLE

water, earth, air and ether. "There are three forces through which these elements manifest themselves, called vata, pitta and kapha," says Dr Shiv Kumar, from the Ayurvedic Company of Great Britain, which has one of the largest databases on Ayurveda in the world. "Most people will be a blend of two." Ayurveda says that to keep well, we must try to maintain and optimise our natural balance of elements. It preaches that life should be governed by regularity. There are about 100 qualified Ayurvedic practitioners in Britain, and each will go through an exhaustive diag-

nosis process with his or her patient, including a questionnaire. The pulse can be taken in as many as 12 positions, and reflexes will be tested. Detailed questions about the urine, stool, the tongue and eyes are also usual.

PANCHAKARMA, meaning "five treatments", is the name given to the format of Ayurvedic treatment, a mix of stretching, meditation, massage and herbal preparations. Another important aspect will be a food regime, tailored to each individual. As a rule, irregular meals are discouraged. Wholesome meals should be eaten calmly, fol-

lowed by a short period of contemplation. And those seeking spiritual harmony should avoid certain metropolitan restaurants — a bad-tempered cook can infuse the affair with discord.

Particularly recommended are energy-giving foods, known as *sattvic*, such as fresh fruit and vegetables (except root vegetables), whole milk, wheat-based products, rice and olive oil. Foods which sap energy, called *tamasic*, should be avoided. These include alcohol, coffee, potatoes, red meat, pickled or cured foods and cheeses.

ANJANA AHUJA
● The Ayurvedic Company of Great Britain can be contacted on 0171-370 2255.

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Rodin's vision of The Thinker

How to get inside the thinking brain

Recently, in a darkened lecture theatre, I watched on a flickering screen a slow-motion video of a brain actually thinking.

For the first time, neuroscientists have access to a technique for observing the living brain which can show the millisecond by millisecond modulation of the nerves as they flash their messages to and fro between brain regions.

The technique is called magnetoencephalography (MEG), and it works by assembling an image from the tiny magnetic fields generated by the coordinated discharge of thousands of nerves. Magnetic fields, according to standard physics, always accompany

Neuroscientists can now watch the nerves flashing messages around the brain. Dr Bruce Charlton joined the audience

electrical activity. The sister technique of MEG is therefore electroencephalography (EEG), which detects the electrical nerve discharge itself.

EEG has been around since the 1920s, and has been used as a diagnostic tool to reveal the focus of epileptic discharges, for monitoring the level of consciousness, and as a research tool. But the picture obtained from EEG is a crude, blurry

image averaged from the whole brain thickness. Interpreting nerve activity from an EEG is like trying to guess the breed of a fish using only ripples on the surface of a distant pond. By contrast, MEG can probe beneath the surface to yield a highly detailed three-dimensional view.

While the skull has considerable electrical resistance, magnetic fields pass

easily through it. But the magnetic fields involved are incredibly small — starting a car engine a mile away would be enough to swamp the signal. Therefore modern MEG needed the development of incredibly sensitive detectors (called "Squid" magnetometers), sophisticated shielding, and computer programs to eliminate background "noise" and amplify the neurally-generated field.

Three-dimensional images of the living human brain have been familiar since the invention of computerised axial tomography (CAT) scans a couple of decades ago. More recently magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has been able to provide an even sharper focus. But

both of these methods produce static pictures. Another technique called positron emission tomography (PET) can demonstrate changes in blood flow every half minute or so, at about half a centimetre level of detail. But only MEG can provide the millisecond and millimetre power of resolution needed to detect the neural activations directly and in real time.

There are some limitations. Only certain parts of the brain can be seen, and the depths of the cerebral cortex are still out of range.

As Francis Crick has argued, future progress in neuropsychology requires entirely new methods for visualising human neuroanatomy. But until then, MEG reveals tantalising glimpses of the mind at work.

Dr Charlton is a lecturer in epidemiology and public health at Newcastle University.

In California, campaigners have fought to save a fragile eco-system, Giles Whittell reports

Wars of the waters that saved Mark Twain's lake

RUSH CREEK is one of five powerful streams that tumble down the eastern side of California's High Sierras into the ancient Mono Lake basin. As you watch the water race through a shallow canyon to the lake, it is strange and exhilarating to consider that for most of the past 50 years it never got this far. Instead it was piped 350 miles south, to be flushed down the drains of Los Angeles.

The creek's rebirth is a victory for the underdog in a long battle to save North America's oldest lake from its thirstiest metropolis. It also marks the start of a 20-year experiment to see whether a fragile and hauntingly beautiful ecosystem that was all but destroyed by man can be restored by him as well.

If the experiment works, history may thank not only the environmentalists who have made Mono Lake their cause célèbre — activists trying to save the Aral Sea in the former Soviet Union have turned to them for advice — but also an unglamorous technological innovation known as the ultra low-flow toilet.

What remains of Mono Lake lies at an altitude of more than 6,000 feet, between the sierras and the Nevada state line. It is lonely except for a tiny ancient mining village on its western shore, and quiet except for the wind. With no natural outlet its level was regulated for some 750,000 years by evaporation alone.

Before Los Angeles diverted its tributaries, Mono Lake was rich in salt and other minerals. These supported huge populations of brine shrimp and flies, which made the lake a favourite staging post for up to a million migrating water fowl each year.

Mark Twain paused here, gathering material for *Rough-*



Mark Twain (left) washed his shirts clean in the waters of Mono Lake. The tufa towers, right, calibrating the extent of the lake's disappearance, have become symbols of the fight to save it



ing It in 1872. He found that Mono Lake water left his shirt "as clean as though it had been through the abtest of washerwoman's hands".

The lake's strangest feature is its "tufa towers" (tufa is derived from the Latin *tufus*, meaning porous). These lime, stone-like stalagmites — made

of calcium from the fresh water that combined with carbonates and sulphates — form over freshwater springs in the lake bed. "It's mysterious," says Geoff McQuilkin, a Mono Lake activist. "They seem to form in rings round the spring, which is then channelled up through the

developing column. The best way to think of them is as petrified springs."

Since 1940, when California's state assembly granted Los Angeles the rights to Mono Lake's entire water runoff, the water level has dropped by 41 feet and its volume has fallen by nearly

half. Its water, which tastes like the juice from a tin of clams, is now too saline to support more than a token population of brine shrimp, thanks to continued evaporation without freshwater replenishment. Numbers of migrating birds have fallen to about a hundredth of their

level in Mark Twain's time. The tufa towers, calibrating the lake's gradual disappearance, have become symbols of the fight to save it.

That fight has been peaceful compared with California's earlier water wars. In the 1920s and 30s, when the 300-mile-long Los Angeles Aqu-

educt was being built to carry water south from the Owens Valley (which leads to Mono Lake), local ranchers blew it up 14 times.

Trainloads of heavily armed detectives would set out from Los Angeles to tame these frontiersmen, but no such force has been marshalled

against today's Mono Lake Committee. This shoestring group of conservationists, a David to the Goliath of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, began a 15-year campaign in 1979 to stop the diversion of Mono Lake's water.

Their first breakthrough came six years ago. Droughts in 1989 and 1990 forced new water conservation efforts in Los Angeles, including the installation of thousands of subsidised ultra low-flow lavatories which do the work of an old seven-gallon flush with a mere 1.4 gallons.

Other innovations were tried, such as low-flow shower heads and sprinkler systems modified to re-use washing-machine water. The result has been a 25 per cent drop in usage that appeared to make the diversion of 27,625 million gallons of water a year from Mono Lake unnecessary.

Los Angeles has shown an uncharacteristic talent for frugality, and conservationists seized on it as proof that the lake could be saved, without shifting the environmental burden elsewhere. "The city is using the same amount of water now as it was 20 years ago despite growing by a million," says Martha Davis, the director of the Mono Lake Committee.

A year ago, in a decision that won it a rare standing ovation, the city's water board agreed to stop almost all diversions until the lake had risen by 18 feet. Rush Creek and its four neighbours will take 20 years to do the job and the lake will still be 25 feet lower than in 1940, but environmentalists say it will "look full". (Thanks to record snows last winter it has already risen 18 inches.)

Others grumble that saving Mono Lake has simply forced Los Angeles to buy more water from the San Francisco area — \$38 million-worth of it a year, according to one water specialist. Meanwhile, it is far from certain that the wetlands round the lake where migrating birds once nested will recover. Nor do scientists know what will happen to dry tufa towers as they are surrounded again by water; they may dissolve. Bill Hasencamp of the Department of Water and Power says: "We'll know in 20 years if it was worth it."

Deaf children demonstrate an innate ability for language

THE BIRTH of a new language has lent strong support to the belief that speech is inborn: a function of brain structure and not simply of acquisition by learning. The theory was first put forward in the 1950s by the American scholar Noam Chomsky, who argued that the astonishing ability of young children to learn to speak argues that language must be innate.

Linguists often despair at the loss of languages, which are disappearing at an alarming rate. But over the past 15 years they have had the opportunity to see one born, in a story reminiscent of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. The language is ISN, or Idioma de Signos Nicaraguense, a sign language spontaneously generated by a group of congenitally deaf children in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.

Before the Sandinista Government came to power in 1979, there was no provision for the education of deaf

From pidgin to creole

children in Nicaragua. Full of good intentions, the new Government set up a school and brought children to it from all over the country. But they provided only hearing teachers, who knew no sign language.

This left the children to their own devices, rather like those in Golding's novel. They quickly developed a pidgin sign language, and successive arrivals at the school honed and polished it to



SCIENCE BRIEFING Nigel Hawkes

produce what Dr Judy Kegl of Rutgers University calls a truly rich language.

In one leap, the children had gone from a pidgin to what linguists call a creole. Pidgins are choppy strings of words, with no grammar and no special order. A creole has structure, grammar and consistency.

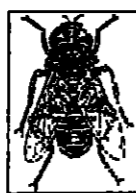
While all those who use pidgin do it differently, the creole signers are much more fluent and expressive.

They can watch a surrealist cartoon, says the linguist Stephen Pinker, and describe its plot to another child. They can use it in jokes, poems, narratives and life histories, he says — "a language has been born before our eyes".

The children appear to be a classic example of what Chomsky called "poverty of stimulus" being no block on the development of language. "These kids have been exposed to an insufficient model of language," Dr Ann Senghas of the University of Rochester Sign Language Research School told *Scientific American*, "and yet they have created something highly developed."

The natural experiment in Managua has confirmed something else. Only those children who start before the age of five really become fluent. For those who joined the school later, it is like an adult struggling to learn a foreign language — very hard work which seldom leads to complete fluency.

Navigating by the mountains



BEES navigate better in the mountains, American biologists have discovered, suggesting

that they use the horizon and any striking landmarks on it to find their way back to the hive.

Research Centre in Tucson, Arizona, took bees from their hives, marked them with tiny stuck-on metal tags, and released them at a range of distances away.

They report in *The American Naturalist* that in the flat area of Arizona and New York State, the bees returned successfully to the hive from distances of up to 5.6km, but on a site in the Arizona mountains they returned from as far as 9.2km. Twice as many made the journey successfully in the mountains.

The conclusion? Bees can spot prominent landmarks and set a course home, until they catch a scent of the hive.

Satellite lost and found



A SATELLITE that went missing a year ago has turned up again in the bush of northern

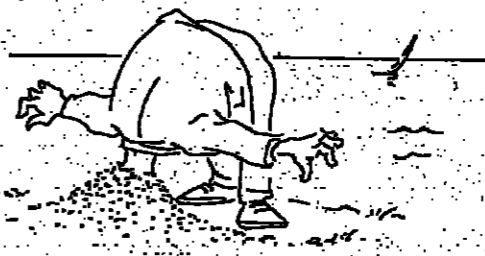
Ghana. German and Japanese scientists who thought it had plunged to destruction in the Pacific are delighted. The \$42 million (£28 million) Express satellite was launched on a Japanese rocket in January 1995. It went into the wrong orbit, lost

contact and crashed, to the chagrin of the scientists.

Cut to the northern Ghanaian bush, where local people later found a re-entry capsule with a parachute attached. The parachute was Russian-made and contained Cyrillic lettering, so the authorities in Ghana feared it might be radioactive. They stuffed it in a cupboard at a nearby airport.

Then a German diplomat read an article about the mystery capsule and put two and two together. A team from the German space agency has confirmed the satellite is theirs. Now all that remains is for them to get it back.

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The wo who we English will no

The woman who up with English rules will not put

Tunku Varadarajan meets this year's Reith lecturer — and learns why there is no 'right' way to use our mother tongue

Professor Jean Aitchison will this year's Reith Lectures give. Does anything seem "wrong" with that sentence? Not according to the professor. She does not like it, of course — just as she would not like "Rosemary an octopus ate" or "Philip his dentures down the drain has dropped" — but she refuses, adamantly, to describe it as "wrong".

"I would call such a sentence ill-formed," she tells me. "I prefer not to speak of right or wrong English ... much better to see things as well-formed or ill-formed. Wrong is a word with too many unhelpful shades."

I venture another question. Could *The Times* have a headline that said "Harriet Harman ain't resigning"? The professor — again — says that there would be nothing "wrong" with that. "That is a perfectly clear headline, admirably clear. And since the function of a headline is to catch the attention in an intelligible way, I would have no objection to that."

Hum ... but what would readers of *The Times* think? Would they not be agast? "Most probably, because that would not be an appropriate headline for the newspaper."

She lingers on the word "appropriate", just as she had done earlier with "ill-formed": these words are, for her, essential tools of analysis. "One has to speak appropriate language ... one addresses a baby quite differently from the way in which one addresses a bus conductor." Equally, one does not address the Queen as one would one's mother — unless the Queen is one's mother.

Professor Aitchison, brimming with this sort of good sense, is the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford. A linguist — or linguistician — she has chosen what she calls "The Language Web" as the subject for the Reith Lectures on the BBC.

"People fuss about things that are trivial ... things like split infinitives. I must confess to greatly enjoying split infinitives." She has a blast, in between sips of sancerre, against such self-appointed 18th-century "grammarians" as Robert Lowth, Bishop of London.

"They had fixed and eccentric opinions about language, and quite pompous obsessions, such as exploring the use of prepositions at the end of sentences," Professor Aitchison, in turn, deprecates these constraints that have been thrust upon us; and Lowth's *Short Introduction to English Grammar* (1762) she has described memorably in print as "pernicious" and full of "pseudo-rules".

Many of these rules were born of the excessive admiration for Latin — and of the elegance of its precepts — which prevailed at Lowth's time. Professor Aitchison read Greek and Latin at Girton College, Cambridge, before studying linguistics at Radcliffe College in America. Linguistics was then a subject "on the ascendant" and she was afraid that if she stayed in Cambridge she would have to spend all her time in the library "deciding whether the Greeks of old dropped their aitches".

Fatteringly — for hacks — she asserts that the ancient Greeks loved language in much the same way that journalists today love language. "Greek texts and modern newspapers manipulate language in the same inventive way."

Ancient Greek, the professor is in no doubt, is "much clearer than Latin". Why, I asked, in the manner of one not schooled in the classics, "It's straightforward, real-

ly. They used many more verbs than the Romans did, and fewer abstract nouns ... just as modern newspapers do."

An example of the Latin method? "England's recovery was helped by Botham's strong batting." And the Greek? "Botham bated strongly and England recovered." I saw her point: a punchy, verb-y sentence which no Sports Desk in the land would turn its nose up at. Very journalistic ... very ancient Greek!

Her reference to Botham was a nice coincidence, for in the course of a few telephone calls to other dons at Oxford, one — who wished not to be named — described Professor Aitchison as "the Ian Botham of linguistics". He may have been referring to her popular touch — or he may have intended to be unkind. But the professor's methods are certainly colourful. Her inaugural lecture at Oxford, delivered at the venerable Examination Schools, "made generous use of visual aids — many of them cartoons by Giles, some of Charlie Brown, others of Dennis the Menace."

If linguistics has a reputation for impenetrability, that is not her fault. Noam Chomsky — in many respects her inspiration, and with whose idea of the biological endowment of language she is so connected — is often dense of text and chewy of phrase. Not so our Reith lecturer. Her books are peppered with gleeful sentences such as: "In a world where humans grow old, tadpoles change into frogs, and milk turns into cheese, it would be strange if language alone remained unaltered."

How many readers would expect the second chapter of a book called *Language Change: Progress or Decay?*, published by the Cambridge University Press, to begin with sentences such as these: "A Faroese recipe in a cookbook explains how to catch a puffin before you roast it. Like a cook, a linguist studying language change must first gather together the basic ingredients."



Jean Aitchison: she believes that if we used language more like Greeks — and less like Romans — we would understand one another better

THE lectures, named after the BBC's founder and first Director-General, Lord Reith, began in 1948 with lecturers paid 1,000 guineas to finance research — beneficiaries have included Bertrand Russell, J.K. Galbraith and Robert Oppenheimer. By 1972, however, the fee was thought too low to finance research and it was feared that that year's lectures would be the last. The gloom was misplaced, but controversy has never been far away.

THE REITH LECTURES

There was a scandal in 1962 when a Professor Carstairs said that charity was more important than chastity, and in 1969 the American scientist Dr Frank Fraser Darling was mocked for saying deforestation and fuel emissions might melt the polar ice caps. There was panic in 1977 when Lord Boyle

pulled out at the last minute, and the following year the Bishop of Southwark gave warning that Dr Edward Norman's lectures could lead to an era of Nazism. In 1991 the lectures came under attack because 43 of the 44 previous lecturers had been men, but in 1992 the BBC failed to find a lecturer at all. This year's five lectures will be broadcast on Tuesdays, starting tomorrow at 8.30pm on Radio 4. *The Times* will summarise them each Wednesday.



The former Empress Bokassa, left, and Princess Firyal

Who really buys those haute couture clothes?

So, what do you do? I asked one of New York's society ladies as we talked leaving the Valentino fashion show. "Do?" she hedged nervously. I elucidated: "You know, a little work for charity here and there?" "Ahh, charity ... Yes, I'm at a fundraising ball or dinner a couple of times a week." She leaned forward to confide: "Well, where else would you wear all these dresses?"

It takes an American to get to the nub of the Paris haute couture shows: displays of excess barely excused by artistry or charity. Our lady of Park Avenue, Manhattan, was one of the 200 or so real people who actually still buy haute couture at \$5,000 or £10,000 a shot, as opposed to the thousands who merely go to gawp for the media.

Kate Muir meets the women who have to go to charity balls in order to wear their designer dresses

how much that would set her back, she merely laughed: "We come for the fun." The unemployed have to fill the days somehow. The Manhattan ladies were perched on gold chairs in the "moneybags" section of the audience while the "fashion celeb" section was led by American *Vogue's* Anna Wintour. The "moneybags" row included Princess Firyal of Jordan, Joan Collins, a couple of vicomesses and baronnes, a Saxe-Coburg or two and an African woman in a toga. All were salivating over, as the programme put it, "the glorious certainty of wearing a unique and unrepeatable piece".

couture's death, these Americans felt all was healthy. "But, darling, we miss the Eighties, don't we?" they lamented, heading for lunch. At the Christian Lacroix show I met a velvet-covered Frenchwoman with an orange crocodile handbag who actually said "Ohh low, low," a smokier version of "Ooh la, la", when the designer's more stunning creations were paraded. She lacked the heady American vulgarity: "I come, then I think a while, then I go to see Christian."

Of course, the fact is that the haute couture shows are intended not for the shoppers but for the world media, so the YSL, Dior or Valentino brand name gets a free airing on television. In fact, Chanel held its media show after a secret viewing for personal shoppers. Either this

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

Recent work by Bridget Riley goes on show at Waddington and Karsten Schubert



JAZZ

Cleo Laine and John Dankworth make sophisticated sounds again at the Café Royal



THEATRE

David Storey's sporting classic, The Changing Room, opens at the Duke of York's



DANCE

At Covent Garden MacMillan's sexy The Invitation is revived with Leanne Benjamin

As London awaits 'the art event of the year', leading artists tell Isabel Carlisle about the enduring influence of a giant

What the genius of Cézanne means to us

GILLIAN AYRES

CÉZANNE's strong, obsessive way of seeing caused him to render nature into simplified pictorial parts...

The Cézanne exhibition which opens on Thursday at the Tate Gallery is not only set to be the art event of the year...

weight of sculpture and the forms of architecture into his paintings while still painting with pure colour.

Cézanne an orange is an orange. It is not observed as being lit from one direction.

As for me, he helps me to dare to follow my most awkward, foolish passions...

keeps the picture on the surface. His pictures go right across the canvas, like a typewriter...

ANTHONY CARO

CÉZANNE is a touchstone for artists. He is so firm and rock-like. His concern is not with turning out successful pictures...



Cézanne by Cézanne: 'A vision so original artists still mine his paintings; if not for ideas then for the courage to be different'

EUAN UGLOW

CÉZANNE is the pivotal figure for art of this century. Matisse and Picasso took him as their god.

RICHARD WENTWORTH

THERE is no other word for the things that I am interested in, other than 'things'.

KEN KIFF

OTHERS will make the same point about Cézanne being an example - of integrity, of bringing together serene architecture and passion...

● Cézanne is at the Tate Gallery...

IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME...

As a painter, in 1996, "is Cézanne still of importance to you?", the answer is yes.

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

SMETANA'S MÁ VLAST

Composed between 1874 and 1879, this cycle of six symphonic poems celebrates the history, mythology and countryside of Bohemia.

AS A RESULT, THE MOST STRIKING PERFORMANCE...

As a result, the most striking performance comes from Raphael Kubelik (who also has two recordings with non-Czech orchestras available).

RECOMMENDED RECORDINGS...

Recommended recordings can be ordered from The Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall...

Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Verdi's Don Carlos

CAR INSURANCE PAY BY INTEREST FREE INSTALMENTS... SAVE £££'s... service line 0800 00 4121

PETER DOIG

THE first Cézannes I saw were in my father's art books: poor, pale reproductions...

early 1980s, we had the tyranny of post-American Abstract Expressionism via British post-Abstract Expressionism.

would be more successful if they were painted with the same lack of hierarchy as in Cézanne.

HOWARD HODGKIN

IN ENGLAND, certainly for someone of my generation, Cézanne's reputation has suffered greatly because of the use he has been put to by art teachers.

exemplar of someone who looked, and nature did something to him and art came out.

CHRISTIE'S Free auction estimates and advice in London... 12-13 February 1996... In preparation for our forthcoming International Magnificent Jewellery sales...

POP

The real McKee Whipping Boy LA2, WI

ONCE just another Dublin four-piece, whose first album revealed little more than a love of distorted guitars.

The turning point came with last year's Heartworm album, with its songs of romantic desolation and near despair.

RECITAL

Total control Maria João Pires Wigmore Hall

A STRING of Chopin nocturnes formed the second half of Maria João Pires's recital at the Wigmore Hall.

Here, as throughout the programme, which also included Schumann's Three Romances Op 28 in an account full of rhapsodic energy.

RECIPE

Whipping Boy have enormous pop potential, as they showed in the closing We Don't Need Nobody Else.

Whipping Boy have enormous pop potential, as they showed in the closing We Don't Need Nobody Else.



A Little Princess brings Frances Hodgson Burnett's children's story to the screen



Frank Black, former Pixie and guru of grunge, plays at the Astoria



The pleasures of the Everyman travel guide to Paris, reviewed by Jan Morris



Epic Wagner at the Coliseum: ENO stages a new production of Tristan and Isolde

ARTS TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2

Catch in his martyr's voice

Blood Libel Norwich Playhouse

I invited to write a play about a local child, murdered in 1144 and for centuries venerated as a martyr...



Murder most foul: the killing of William precipitates the invention of the blood libel in Arnold Wesker's play

The earlier scenes of Irina Brown's production, which include a peculiarly festive lying-in and birth, are a puzzle until the shape of the play emerges...

Wesker sees Thomas as deluded by a need to enrich his faith with miracles, and Bond is good at the glitter-eyed, sweaty excitement of listening to the words he wants to hear...

Hardly any mention is made of the social and economic troubles of the time. These are people for whom the

trauma of the Norman conquest was a living memory, and religious fervour must have proved a comforting release...

Soldiers together in the jungle

The Long and the Short and the Tall Albery

Willis Hall's play. Whatever it was that persuaded him, his confidence in Counterpoint has been completely justified...

THIS production's arrival in a West End theatre is something of a contemporary fairy-tale, with Counterpoint Theatre Co in the role of Cinderella...

unmistakably a fringe venue. Early that morning the company's press-agent rang round the critics to say that the opening night had been postponed...

ified by what the company here achieve. Paul Jerricho's cast vividly portray the range of tensions that splinter among the doomed British soldiers up-jungle in Malaya...

continence in this sort of war play: serious, unheroic, indeed anti-heroic, a play that presents their experience as the general lot of men in war.

They have the grubby, exhausted look of combatants; men, moreover, who have struggled and sweated in each other's company. They argue, complain, joke and, in poignant foreboding, sing the song I once heard in this heart-catching moment Kevin Dignam's Bamforth, excellent as the sardonic private, loses his laughing snarl and stares coldly, steadily out at their vanishing future...

LONDON

VALLEY SONGS. Opening night for the 20th Fugate playing the grand finale in his latest play...

ELSEWHERE

THE CHANGING ROOM. David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre shows in London

NEW RELEASES

FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II. Steve Martin takes the patter of his feet. Bland comedy sequel...

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Ffrench's assessment of films in London and elsewhere

ENTERTAINMENTS. DANCE. BADLERS WELLS (0171 718 8000). OPERA & BALLET. ROYAL OPERA HOUSE (0171 304 400).

LA BOHEME. THIS WEEK WED - SAT. ROYAL ALBERT HALL. THE CENTENARY PRODUCTION OF LA BOHEME.

THE LONG & THE SHORT & THE TALL. ALDWICH BO & CO (0171 418 000). THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. AN INSPECTOR CALLS. CATS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

THIS WEEK ONLY TWO EXTRA SHOWS JUST ADDED. THE CENTENARY PRODUCTION OF LA BOHEME. ROYAL ALBERT HALL.

STARBUCK EXPRESS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

CRITERION THEATRE. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

NEWS

Fraud claim delays rail sale

Government plans for a high-profile launch of rail privatisation were left in tatters as ministers faced demands for a criminal investigation into allegations that a new private operator was involved in ticket fraud.

The sale of the London, Tilbury and Southend service, known to commuters as "The Misery Line", was stopped by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, just ten hours before it was due to go ahead.

Woman firefighter dies in blaze

A young woman became the first female firefighter to die on active duty yesterday when the roof of a blazing supermarket in Bristol collapsed after she went inside to check for trapped people.

Ashdown vendetta

Paddy Ashdown and his family are bracing themselves for further trouble this week after being warned by police that they are facing a vendetta by a few of his Yeovil constituents.

Sentencing attack

Michael Howard's plans for automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and violent offenders were attacked by one of his former prisons ministers, Sir Peter Lloyd.

Gang threat

Britain has more than 300 criminal gangs with between 5,000 and 10,000 members who pose a greater threat than the Triads, the Mafia and the Yards, according to a police report on organised crime.

Muslim education

A primary school in Birmingham is to become the first state school in Britain to make its own arrangements for Muslim religious education.

Waldegrave demand

John Major faced intensified demands to dismiss William Waldegrave from the Government over his role in the arms-to-Iraq affair.

Naval heroes

The full story of how clandestine flotillas were used to ferry secret agents in and out of France and North Africa during the early years of the Second World War has been disclosed.

Heseltine anger

Michael Heseltine came under heavy criticism from his own party and from business for undermining government efforts to force companies to pay bills promptly.

Sarajevo united

The Bosnian Government reasserted its authority over all of Sarajevo after three-and-a-half years of war had divided the city into separate camps.

Picture of abuse

A psychiatrist who has studied the earliest portrait of Elizabeth I believes it shows that she was abused as a child.

Earthquake search

Chinese rescue workers continued searching for survivors in the rubble of the remote town of Lijiang after one of the region's worst earthquakes.

Golfers evicted

A golf club is being evicted from a course owned by a tycoon who was stripped of the world's leading pro-am golf title last week for alleged cheating.

Frozen farmers

Arctic cold swept across North America at the weekend, threatening to freeze the ears off cattle in Canada and endangering the citrus crop as far south as Florida.

The burglars' four-year-old friend

To four-year-old Russell Brown, they were two unexpected friends to keep him company after he woke to go to the lavatory in the middle of the night. He chatted politely to the burglars, helpfully pointing out his mother and father's most valued possessions.



Clowns before their annual service at Holy Trinity Church, Dalston, east London, where Joseph Grimaldi is commemorated

BUSINESS

Economy: The European single market will probably collapse early in the next decade if there is any delay or deviation from the Maastricht plan to create a European monetary union by January 1999.

ARTS

Artistic tributes: As London awaits "the art event of the year", the opening of the Cézanne exhibition at the Tate, artists from Anthony Caro to Howard Hodgkin talk about a great artist.

FEATURES

Alternative medicine: The first part of a two-day report looks at the rapid rise of non-orthodox therapies in Britain, and at three holistic approaches to health.

SPORT

Football: Gavin Peacock scored the first Chelsea hat-trick for nearly six years as the London team beat Middlesbrough 5-0.

PPP: The private healthcare insurance group is planning to turn itself into a £500 million limited company with the twin aims of supporting the existing business and a new healthcare charity trust.

Irish popsters: Once just another Dublin four-piece, whose first album revealed little more than a love of distorted guitars, Whipping Boy have developed a style of their own.

Mind and Matter: The mineral-rich Mono Lake, in California's High Sierras, was disappearing down the drains of Los Angeles until campaigners began fighting.

Rugby union: England scrambled to an unconvincing win over Wales in the five nations' championship at Twickenham, as Scotland stayed on course by beating France at Murrayfield.

Lloyd's of London: The steel-and-glass landmark in the City is to be sold to a German property fund, Despa, for around £180 million. The building has been on the market for just one month.

New play: In Norwich Arnold Wesker's new play Blood Libel looks at the murder of a child in 1144. A gripping historical thriller, says Jeremy Kingston.

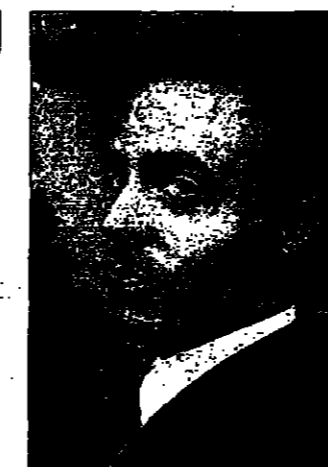
Reith lecture: Jean Aitchison, the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at Oxford, has no qualms about to bravely split infinitives.

Golf: Ian Woosnam, of Wales, won his second tournament on successive weekends when he picked up the Heineken Classic at The Vines, in Perth, with a birdie on the last hole.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES STAGE STRUCK Elizabeth McGovern has switched from Hollywood starlet to classical actress



OUT OF COURT Should Ron Lipsius have got a better deal in his legal claim for injury damages?

TV LISTINGS

Preview: A nostalgic look at a once mighty British industry: Fish and Ships (Channel 4, 8.30pm). Review: "Jack Frost has always left me cold", says Matthew Bond.

OPINION

A heavy tread

For a Chancellor even to hint that where German jackboots twice marched this century they could march again unless Europe follows Germany's federal route-map is contrary to Germany's own interests.

Through signal

Ideology never made the trains run on time: from today the test will be whether the private trains to the West and the South-West are better run, more comfortable and fuller than before.

The healing touch

All doctors would like to bring the treatment proposed by unregistered practitioners of alternative medicine within the remit of supervised health care.

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Harold Wilson made rather similar claims to Tony Blair's, but he did not deliver, or seriously try to deliver, what he promised in Opposition. If new Labour turned out to be a return to the Harold Wilson style of social democracy, it would be a disaster.

PETER RIDDELL

The biggest shift in the Conservative Party will be the replacement of strong pro-Europeans in their seats by sceptics in their late thirties and forties.

OBITUARIES

Gene Kelly, dancer, actor and choreographer; Brodric Haldane, photographer; Major-General Reynold Taylor, former Chief of Staff, BAOR.

LETTERS

NHS reforms; anonymity for civil servants.

NEWSPAPERS

It should not have taken urgent telephone calls from President Clinton to pull Greece and Turkey back from military conflict over two uninhabited rocks in the Aegean. Mr Clinton has more serious issues to tackle.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,082

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28.

- ACROSS: 1 Treatment of belyching worker by a section of the police (7). 5 Pronounced sitting's abandonment (7). 9 Warm's up for preliminary races (5). 10 Some soldiers offer to take the place of others (9). 11 Underworld representative is cut up (9). 12 A little model highly regarded in capital (5). 13 Dark look - or lighter line? (5). 15 Satisfying vegetables consumed in imitative behaviour (9). 18 Showing surprised reaction to a sudden disturbance (9). 19 Bird-man's 10% (5). 21 Little boy and I had chicken (5). 23 Block a view of Middle Eastern capital (9). 25 Effective approach about money and shelter (9). 26 Eat, or possibly just muse (5). 27 Passed over no longer, a large number applied (7). 28 About to accept retiring associate's suite (7). DOWN: 1 Rose-lovers may get a supplement about shelter (7). 2 Vehicles to electrify (9). 3 A virtuous person in church social group (5). 4 Stuck-up conventional directors as target for local sportsmen (9). 5 Bound to see the accountant through (5). 6 Single-minded, arranged dates without delay (9). 7 Exemplary though singular-business transaction (5). 8 Absence of spare key is a trivial matter (7). 14 She washes articles of French clothing (9). 16 Countermeasure taken by walker (9). 17 Generally under water (2,3,4). 18 Letters making it clear what's to appear in newspaper (7). 20 A fitting place for the viewer (7). 22 Copy motorway madness in cars, initially (5). 23 Anxiety makes many study (5). 24 How to extract metal from fish (5).

TIMES WEATHERCALL

Table with 2 columns: Region and Forecast. Includes Greater London, Kent/Surrey/Sussex, Devon & Cornwall, etc.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with 2 columns: Road number and Status. Includes London & SE traffic, A52, A1, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with 2 columns: Location and Temperature. Includes London, Manchester, Glasgow, etc.

FORECAST

General: Eastern and central areas of England and Wales will start dry, bright and frosty but rain and sleet in western areas will spread slowly east during the day. The rain and sleet will turn to snow inland.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with 4 columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Max, Min. Includes Aberdeen, London, Manchester, etc.

ABROAD

Table with 4 columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Max, Min. Includes Accro, Almer, Algiers, etc.

FORECAST

Map of the UK with weather symbols and a legend for weather conditions like Sunny, Cloudy, Rain, etc.

CHANGES TO CHART BELOW FROM NOON: Low J will drift east and fill. Low I will run eastward with little change in central pressure.



TODAY

Table with 4 columns: Location, AM, HT, PM, HT. Includes London, Manchester, Glasgow, etc.

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